Kenny appointed as new chaplain; has plans for student involvement

"I came to Youngstown for lots of reasons and I plan to stay for quite a long time," said the Reverend Miss Dianne Kenny, who is the new Protestant Chaplain at YSU.

Kenny said that she was not always interested in the ministry. She explained that at first she was interested in higher education and entered graduate school to pursue a degree in personnel work, but changed her mind.

"I started at a bad time," Kenny stated. She further explained that in 1964-65, when she started graduate school, student protests were just starting and the professionals she came in contact with were only interested in keeping everything under control.

Kenny said that she feels that problems cause protest and the difficulties should be dealt with, and not just controlled. "I moved from becoming a professional in that area to getting credentials in the field of ministry," Kenny said. She added that she is happy in her profession.

Kenny, who was hired full time by the Cooperative Campus Ministry, said that as a woman minister, she faces some hiring difficulties. She said that a church board might hesitate on hiring a woman because of a "strong sense of non-acceptance by the congregation." Kenny feels that most problems of a woman minister are sociological rather than theological.

According to Kenny, other women are sometimes the least ready to accept her. She explained that the traditional ideas and attitudes held by some women, and how they view themselves, are responsible for her occasional non-acceptance by other women.

Kenny said that she is enthusiastic about the concept of Team Ministry and feels that the YSU Cooperative Campus Ministry offered a fine opportunity to work with a good group of people.

According to Kenny, Team Ministry involves ministers from various faiths who all work together, yet individually. Kenny explained that each minister works seperately in his or her own special field of interest, but unite their efforts to form one strong organization. Kenny said she sees much potential in the YSU Cooperative Campus Ministry for growth in Team Ministry.

The duties for the new Protestant Minister were not well defined Kenny said, and added that she will spend most of this summer defining and planning her goals.

"I'm impressed with the free clinic," Kenny said. She said that since the CCM backs the free clinic, one of her new daties include helping to supervise the clinic. The CCM is now looking for available space for the free

clinic since "the building was sold to YSU for office space," Kenny said. The free clinic building will facilitate the staff that must vacate Jones Hall because of remodeling.

Among her other duties, Kenny plans to initiate campus programs which would involve students, as well as faculty and staff, that would serve their needs. "Historically, student services grew out of the YWCA, YMCA and the ministry," Kenny said. Kenny said she will design her programs of campus involvement after "initial contact and listening to dreams." Kenny was

born in southern California, but spent the last 10 years in the San Francisco Bay area.

Kenny received her master's degree in theology from the Pacific School of Religion which is part of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkley.

In 1969, she served as assistant dean of Chapel at Stanford and then worked for a year under a Danforth Scholarship in Berkley.

Kenny was acting dean of Chapel at Mills College for Women at Oakland before coming to YSU.