

History of the Madison Institutional Ministries

Senior Church History
Pro. Westerhaus
Derrick D. Bauer
May 1992

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library
11831 W. Seminary Drive, 65W
Mequon, Wisconsin

FOREWARD

A few years ago, I had my first experience with the Madison Institutional Ministries. My father was going in for an emergency bypass heart surgery. At the time I was enrolled at Northwestern College in Watertown, WI. Between work and school it was a difficult time to spend hours with him before or after the surgery. At this time, while he was in the hospital, I found out that both he and my mother were being visited by the chaplain from the Madison Institutional Ministries. Ever since that surgery the Madison Institutional Ministries has always been on my mind. It is for my father and the chaplains who served and are serving there that I write this paper hoping to bring their work for fellow Christians to light and hope others too will take interest in the Madison Institutional Ministries.

In the early nineteen forties, a growing concern was felt for providing spiritual care to the many Wisconsin Synod Lutherans from out of town who were coming to Madison hospitals. The Missouri Synod already had an institutional ministry in Madison. In 1942 and 1944 the Western Wisconsin District conventions discussed the matter of meeting the requests of distant pastors to minister to their hospitalized members. The District Mission Board prevailed on the General Board for Home Missions of the Wisconsin Synod to establish a hospital ministry in Madison. Pastor Rudolph Horlamus of Hurley, Wisconsin was called from his parish in August 1945 to serve as the first chaplain. The work was divided for many years between the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods. When the break in relations between the two synods occurred in 1961, the WELS chaplain assumed responsibility for all the hospitals in Madison. There are presently ten institutions in which the chaplain may have patients or prisoners needing his spiritual care.

In 1945 our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod through the District Mission Board of Western Wisconsin called and provided for the salary and home for a pastor to bring comfort of the Gospel to the hospital and institutional patients in the Madison, Wisconsin area. This was done especially for the purpose of serving patients, who were a considerable distance from their homes and could not very conveniently be served by their home pastors. Prior to 1945 Pastor Wm. Keturakat of Sun Prairie had served such out-of-the-area patients on a part time basis.

Because medical skills and facilities offered in the Madison area were bringing an increasing number of members of our congregations to the Madison hospitals in the early forties, this brought about an increasing number of requests to local pastors by the more distant pastors that the spiritual needs of these patients might be met. The stringencies of those war days added more problems to the pastors to make the calls themselves. Thus the district conventions of the Western Wisconsin District in 1942 and 1944 discussed the matter and through its mission board prevailed on the General Board for Missions to establish a hospital ministry in Madison.

A call to serve in this ministry was accepted by Pastor Rudolph C Horlamus at that time pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Hurley, Wisconsin. On August 14, 1945 Pastor and Mrs. Horlamus and daughter left Hurley to take up the work in Madison. Housing was a problem in those war days and it was not until the first days of September that a home was available for them. Now the ground work could be done. As said before the Missouri Synod had a missionary in Madison for a period before this. The board had consulted with him and the area had been divided. The call for the new missionary had stipulated that Madison General, St. Mary's and Methodist hospitals and the State Psychiatric facilities at Mendota were to be his field. The missionary of the Missouri Synod was to serve Wisconsin General Hospital and Lakeview Sanitarium. This arrangement continued until the break in 1961. In 1946 services once per month were begun at the Dane County Institutions at Verona.

When the Veteran's Administration Hospital opened, calls on patients from our synod's churches were also on the weekly agenda. From the beginning of the hospital ministry services were also conducted at the Mendota facility. At first these were once per month. Pastor Ylvisaker of Holy Cross Lutheran Church had also conducted services on two Sundays per month. After his death it was possible to have services on two Sundays which continued until more frequent home visits were granted to patients. The missionary's wife was a great help during these years serving as pianist at all services.

For a number of years part of the Mendota grounds was leased to the armed forces as a place to care for disturbed service people. This added another area where ministrations were needed and that continued until the hospital was opened at Tomah. Then the area reverted to the state facility.

Through the years out-of-city people were often confined to various nursing homes and brought to the attention of the missionary. With the break between the synods in 1961, the patients from our synod at University Hospital also became the care of the missionary. It is needless to say that the number of patient visits increased considerably in the later years.

In October of 1968 the missionary was hospitalized because of a stroke. The Lord granted a good recovery so that the work could be resumed in February, 1969. However, to do all the work, a vicar assisted during 1969 and 1970. Vicar Dale Neyhart was shared between the student chapel and the hospital work.

Since September of 1945 Pastor Rudolph Horlamus served full time. In later years he was assisted by Pastor Roy Reede of Prairie Du Sac, Wisconsin, beginning with the fall of 1970.

When Pastor Roy Reede was installed in the Prairie du Sac parish on November 29, 1970, he assisted about 3 days per week. In 1972 Pastor Horlamus requested to be relieved of more of the work and Pastor Reede was called and accepted as full time missionary. He was installed on February 11, 1973 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. He served all the hospitals except Madison General and Dane County Home at Verona which Pastor Horlamus continued to serve until full retirement on October 31, 1978. Pastor Reede served at all the hospitals until his retirement on August 1, 1983.

Over the years the field of work has continued to expand with the enlargement of all the Madison hospitals and with the increased specialized treatment made available particularly in the area of cancer and cardio-vascular disorders. During this last year of 1980 Pastor Reede made over 5,000 calls. About 35% of the patients visited were from outside of our Western Wis. District -- quite often from the North Wisconsin District and from The Southeast Wisconsin District. Noting that the patients were from a specific area, a survey was taken.

As a result of a survey several years ago, it was proposed that this Institutional Mission project in Madison should be funded by a local or regional organization without receiving further subsidy from the budget of our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The matter was later reconsidered, but the

resolution remained with the understanding that when a vacancy would occur, then a shift of support should follow. This action was approved by the Gen. Board for Home Missions, although the Western Wis. District Mission Board did not find itself in agreement with the proposed discontinuing of subsidy from our Synod.

In 1981 the WELS delegates in convention voted to withdraw support from all institutional missions. The logic: This is not mission work but ministry to our own people. In 1982 the Western Wisconsin District convention resolved to for a non-profit corporation and titled it: The Madison Institutional Ministries, Inc. (MIMI). There is a board of directors consisting of two pastors, two laymen, and one teacher. This ministry received no support from the Wisconsin Synod and depends entirely upon support from congregations and individuals within and without the Western Wisconsin District. The 1990 budget is around \$38,400. Part-time chaplains also serve institutions in Tomah, Marshfield, and La Crosse.

The following information is from the BORAM concerning what to place in convention concerning the Madison Institutional Ministries:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Implications</u>
Close three institutional ministries	Work referred to area pastors or local association

1981 BORAM - p. 61-62

UNPRINTED MEMORIAL (81-16)

SUBJECT: Madison Institutional Mission

WHEREAS 1) the Institutional Mission in Madison, Wisconsin, has provided an important service in bringing the comfort of God's Word and Sacrament to patients from WELS congregations throughout the state of Wisconsin for some 36 years; and

WHEREAS 2) the General Board for Home Missions, together with the Coordinating Council, has determined that subsidy for this Institutional Mission shall be discontinued on January 1, 1982; and

- WHEREAS 3) the continuation of this mission is deemed vital, inasmuch as over 5,000 calls have been made annually (35% of these on patients from districts other than Western Wisconsin District); and
- WHEREAS 4) the number of calls can only be expected to increase in the future with the enlargement of all the Madison hospitals and with the increased specialized treatment made available particularly in the area of cancer, cardio-vascular, and eye disorders; and
- WHEREAS 5) there is a missionary at present serving this field who will be without support when this subsidy ceases, unless other sources of support are found; and
- WHEREAS 6) assumption of responsibility for the Madison Institutional Mission would involve considerable planning and preparation in the area of publicity, funding, and administration; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that synodical subsidy be continued for the Madison Institutional Mission at least for one additional year after December 31, 1981, to allow time to study this program in an orderly fashion at various conventions in the summer of 1982.

Western Wisconsin District
 Pastor-Teacher Conference
 1981 Proceedings - p. 36-37

REPORT OF FLOOR COMMITTEE 9a
 (Home missions)

Reference: BoRam, p. 62, Unprinted Memorial (81-16)

Subject: Elimination of Subsidies for Three Institutional Ministries

Resolution No. 1

- WHEREAS 1) we recognize the importance of the work of the institutional ministries at Madison, Wis., Minneapolis, Minn., and the Fox River Valley area of Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS 2) Memorial (81-16) has recommended the extension of subsidy for the Madison Institutional Ministry for one year after December 31, 1981; and
- WHEREAS 3) this extension would require the elimination of funding for some other project with the Synod; and
- WHEREAS 4) the General Board for Home Missions (GBHM) has encouraged local congregations, conferences, and area associations of congregations to make both referral-type and missionary-type institutional work their responsibility wherever feasible; and

WHEREAS 5) the GBHM has recommended the elimination of subsidy for the institutional ministries of Madison, Wis., Minneapolis, Minn., and the Fox River Valley area of Wisconsin; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the subsidy for the three institutional ministries in Madison, Wis., Minneapolis, Minn., and the Fox River Valley area of Wisconsin be eliminated.

1981 Proceedings - p. 73

At its 1981 Convention Synod declined the memorial from our District asking for continued support for the Institutional Ministry in Madison, and adopted the plan to discontinue financial support through the Mission Board as of January 1, 1982. So that the work might continue, our District Praesidium asked the DSMB to be responsible for this work until the 1982 District Convention. To carry out this assignment our Board appointed a sub-committee and gave it the assignment: a) to solicit funds and operate the Institutional Ministry in Madison through the 1982 Convention; and b) to prepare and offer to the 1982 Convention a permanent plan to continue this work. The Lord has richly blessed the efforts put forth to support the Institutional Ministry in Madison. Over 90% of the proposed \$30,000 budget for 1982 was generously contributed by congregations, organizations and individuals. ... Included in the expenses is a \$200.00 per month rental for the Synod owned house in which Missionary Reede lives. This rental agreement expires at the end of June and a new agreement, or purchase agreement will have to be negotiated with Synod's Board of Trustees.

excerpts from 1982
Western Wisconsin District
Convention - p. 28-29

- WHEREAS 1) the Lord for some 37 years has blessed the spreading of His Word to both the church and the unchurched in the Madison, Wis. area through the work of institutional ministries; and
- WHEREAS 2) there is a continuing need for a full time institutional ministry in the Madison, Wis. area as demonstrated by the over 5,000 calls made last year in 8 large institutions; and
- WHEREAS 3) the continuation of this work now requires an organization to supervise and support it on a local or area basis since the WELS in its 1981 Convention discontinued its support (Proceedings of the 46th Biennial Convention, WELS, Resolution 1, page 73); and
- WHEREAS 4) the geographic area served lies within the Western Wisconsin District and approximately 65% of the patients served are members of the Western Wisconsin District; and
- WHEREAS 5) the congregation of the Western Wisconsin District have demonstrated a genuine concern for the continuation of this ministry by their generous support since the implementation of the Synod's 1981 resolution; and
- WHEREAS 6) such an organization would be necessary should the Lord in the future provide the need and opportunity for the expansion of such institutional ministries within our Western Wisconsin District; therefore be it
- RESOLVED a) that the membership of the Western Wisconsin District now assume full responsibility for the present institutional ministries work which has in the past been done by the GBHM of WELS in the Madison, Wis. area and be it further
- RESOLVED b) that the delegates at this Western Wisconsin District Convention authorize the Praesidium to appoint a 5 man Committee to establish a not-for-profit corporation to administer the institutional ministries (at present the in the Madison, Wis. area); and be it further
- RESOLVED c) that the Committee make use of the attached guidelines in forming this Corporation; and be it further
- RESOLVED d) that the Committee become the first Board of Directors of this Corporation and that in 1984 the delegates at the District Convention elect the directors as provided in the By-laws; and be it further
- RESOLVED e) that funds needed for forming such a Corporation be taken from the funds gathered for the work of the Madison Institutional Mission - WELS; and be it further

RESOLVED f) that the Corporation formed be authorized to conduct the present institutional work in Madison as has been done in the past by the GBHM of WELS with the contributions it gathers and to expand institutional ministries in Madison or other areas of the District as the Board of Directories may propose after thoughtful consultation with the District; and be it finally

RESOLVED g) that the DSMB be responsible for the institutional work in Madison until the appointed Committee can be organized by the District Praesidium.

1982 Western Wisconsin
District Convention -
p. 72-73

PROPOSED CORPORATION FOR THE MADISON INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES

Corporation Characteristics - By-Law Suggestions

1. A non-profit corporation organized under the appropriate Wisconsin Statutes which shall meet all Federal and State Code provisions regarding deductibility of contributions.

2. It shall have the authority to own property necessary to carry out its purpose and seek exemption of such property from State and Local property taxes.

3. Corporate Purpose: To preach, teach and spread God's Word according to the Scriptural principles of the WELS in institutions located in but not necessarily limited to the Madison, Wisconsin area; serving the spiritual needs of WELS members and the unchurched in such institutions as hospitals, nursing homes, institutions for the handicapped, prisons and other institutions as the Board of Directors may propose after thoughtful consultation with the District.

4. This shall be a corporation without members.

5. The Board of Directors shall be composed of five (5) members from the Western Wisconsin District, each of which may not serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The term of office shall be six (6) years. The terms shall be staggered. The delegates to the 1984 Biennial Convention of the Western Wisconsin District shall elect five (5) members to this Board of Directors. The Board shall elect from its midst a President, a Vice-president, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The only Ex-officio member shall be the District President or his designee. The Board shall be composed of two pastors, one teacher, and two laymen. The delegates at succeeding conventions shall elect those members of the Board whose term expires at the time of convention.

6. The Board members shall submit to each biennial convention a report which shall sufficiently indicate the financial contributions, expenditures, a summary of the work carried on, and a report of proposed activity.

7. The Corporation shall be empowered to extend a divine call to a missionary(s) to fulfill the purposes of said Corporation and to provide for proper and sufficient support of said missionary(s).

8. The Corporation shall accept all contributions, gifts, bequests, devises, and legacies which may be contributed.

9. The Corporation shall be empowered to purchase and hold real property and such other property as it may reasonably need to fulfill its purpose.

10. The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice each year at a regularly called meeting, one of which it shall designate as its annual meeting, and shall meet at the call of the President, or the majority of Board members.

11. All other Articles and/or By-laws which may be necessary such as establishing standing Committees, what constitutes a quorum, officer duties and responsibilities, reimbursement of expenses, removal from office, official minutes, filling unexpired terms, etc. shall be included. Amendments to the By-laws may be made by the Board of Directors.

1982 Western Wisconsin
District Convention -
p. 74-75

In the first year an interim committee was appointed to study the feasibility of assuming this ministry by our District and to come up with some long range plans. They also took upon themselves the responsibility of soliciting the necessary funds to keep this ministry going until the 1982 district convention. There the delegates would decide whether or not to continue it.

The committee did its homework. The delegates voiced their overwhelming support for this hospital ministry. In the fall of 1982, a new committee was appointed and charged with incorporating

the implementing the convention resolution. With the volunteered services of Atty. Wm. Mundt of Madison, WELS-MADISON INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES, INC. was recognized by the state as a corporation without members in December. The corporation is governed by a 5 man board of directors.

The board has encouraged support of this ministry through mailings, envelopes, bulletin inserts, posters and other publicity. The saints of the Western Wisconsin district have responded with a total of \$10,800 since November of 1982. They received generous donations from congregations, Sunday Schools, Day Schools, Ladies and Men's groups and individuals.

The corporation purchases the former Synod-owned parsonage on Madison's west side for \$49,000. The house had been appraised at \$62,500. They secured a loan for \$40,000 from the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Jefferson at a reduced rate. After an initial down-payment of \$10,000 the monthly payments will be \$436 based on a 25 year mortgage.

The budget for 1984 will be in the neighborhood of \$28,000. They were entirely dependent upon the members of the district for these funds.

The Corporation is controlled by a five man board of Directors elected by the delegates of the Western Wisconsin District. Funding for the nearly \$31,000 annual budget comes from WELS congregations within and without the district. During the past biennium they received over \$52,000 in gifts. During the first four months of this year they received \$16,575 in contributions toward the annual budget. A favorable financial condition enabled them to

make advance payments on the \$40,000 note to the bank. They saved over \$6,000 in interest by such prepayments. They had approximately \$39,500 remaining on the mortgage. They looked forward to the day when they would retire the debt and be out from under the monthly house payments. Each fall they sent out bulletin flyers and envelopes to those congregations that wish them. They also have memorial cards available.

The board of directors felt that WELS- MIMI could serve the district in other institutions in the district which serve a wider area such as: Veteran's hospital in Tomah, the Marshfield Clinics as well as Gunderson Clinic and other hospitals in the La Crosse area. With the encouragement of the District Special Ministries Board and after consultation with the pastors who serve those institutions in the Tomah and Marshfield areas, the board voted at their meeting to extend limited part-time calls to these men to serve these institutions. They offered them compensation for mileage and supplied them with devotional material and handouts. They also felt they could offer workshops for training lay-workers in hospital visitation. This extension of service would have little impact on the budget. The part-time chaplains would receive letters of introduction to the hospitals' administration giving them more access and perhaps securing better cooperation from the staff. The part-time chaplains would also be listed in the Synod yearbook along with their respective institutions, thereby publicizing the work.

The Madison parsonage was sold in October of 1986. The selling price was \$58,000 minus \$1,000 closing costs. With the loan paid, MIMI was left with \$14,354.78.

Pastor Kenneth Weber was installed as our Madison Chaplain on June 6, 1983. The Lord called Pastor Weber to his eternal rest on November 25, 1986 after a little more than three years of service. During Pastor Weber's sickness and following his death Pastor A. D. Laper of Sun Prairie served from August 1986 till March 1987. Pastor Arthur Clement was recently installed as our fourth full-time hospital chaplain on March 22, 1987 at Peace Ev. Lutheran Church of Sun Prairie. Pastor and Mrs Clement reside in Sun Prairie.

The hospital ministry is a demanding ministry. The chaplains seek out and find the Wisconsin Synod members. Many of the hospitals do not divide a patient's religion further than the general classification "Lutheran". The chaplain must walk the halls to personally find our people. You can see what a time saver a simple phone call would be. When there is time however, these visits do provide many mission opportunities.

Pastor Ken Gast and Donald Buch serve part-time at the regional facilities in Tomah and Marshfield. The board supplies printed materials for them. Bulletin inserts, offering envelopes, and memorial cards are available on a regular basis to the congregations or upon request. This is a vital ministry to bring comfort to the sick and to the dying. Pray for our chaplains and this ministry.

The latest year end report:

The bright and happy side of the report is that during 1991 priceless Good News of our Savior has been brought to over 5,000 calls hospitalized miles away from their home areas and in need of the comfort which only God's Word can give. While most of the patients have recovered and returned home, some may continue there

for weeks and months. A few did not live to see 1992, but by the grace of God they died with the assurance of everlasting peace and joy. Money cannot buy the saving message of Jesus, which comforts and heals eternally. At the same time they must face the reality that financial support is needed to keep the Madison Institutional Ministry going. Here is the 1991 year end financial report:

Total Disbursements	\$38,843.83
Gifts from congregations	\$31,313.93
Gifts from individuals	3,165.00
Memorial gifts	735.00
Interest on deposited funds	559.78
Total Income	\$35,773.71
Shortfall!	(\$ 3,070.12)

They are able to continue only by borrowing from the funds on deposit from the sale of the house previously owned by the Ministry. However, they are soberly aware that if they continue to fall short of providing for the operating expense, the present balance will soon be depleted.

This is a worth while ministry and is something that should be on the hearts and minds of all Christians and congregations that have or might be using the Madison Institutional Ministries. It has been a worth while and interesting experience learning more about the Madison Institutional Ministries. I hope that all who read this paper have become more acquainted with the Madison Institutional Ministries and all that it does not only for WELS members, but also as a tool for reaching the unchurched.