

Relaxation in Creation and Renewal in Christ:

A History of Camp Phillip

CH 3031

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What does a camp have to do with the mission of the Christian church? Even our Savior knew that getting away to rest was important. "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'" (Mark 6:31) Camp Phillip exists as a place Christians can go to find relaxation in God's creation and to find time to study God's Word for renewal of their souls. Camp Phillip's mission is to provide relaxation in creation and renewal in Christ.¹

This paper seeks to lay out the history of the programs at Camp Phillip. The programs that Camp Phillip does attempted to achieve that mission. Chief on that list of programs is the development of its summer camp. This paper will explore what programs were tried, what methods were used, and what challenges camp faced in ministering to the God's youth. This paper will look at the development of the present staff. You will see the development from all volunteers to full-time, year round staff. This paper will also touch on the development of the facilities at Camp Phillip, recognizing that many hours and talents were poured into making Camp Phillip a place for relaxing and facilitating God's Word as it renewed thousands of hearts. Finally, this paper will oversee the path that was taken from Camp being supported fully by the Milwaukee Federation of Churches to being a self-supporting incorporation.

WELS Christians felt a need for their children to enjoy God's Creation while being renewed spiritually through the Word of God. In 1956, a two-week summer camp held at Camp Lutherdale near Elkhorn, WI was begun for this purpose. Pastor James Schaefer, Pastor Richard Stiemke, and Mr. Arthur Sprengler ministered to 3rd graders through 9th graders. Little is known about how many campers came, the number of volunteers, or the overall experience. From 1957 on Camp Lutherdale was only available for one week, so the second week was held at Camp

¹ The master goal of Camp Phillip is "Camp Phillip provides relaxation in creation and renewal in Christ to WELS youth, families, adults, churches, and schools throughout the year. (Camp Committee Minutes, January 14, 1997).

Willerup, a Methodist camp located on Lake Ripley, near Cambridge WI. That year, Mr. Marvin Wernicke began involvement with the summer program. Marvin Wernicke would volunteer his time and efforts for over 24 years, serving as Camp Committee Chairman and Summer Camp Director. In 1960 the Milwaukee Federation of WELS Churches, Inc. was formed and the summer camping programs became a part of its ministry.² In 1962, all sessions were moved to Camp Willerup.

While having their own facility had always been a dream of the Milwaukee Federation,³ it wasn't until 1968 that the Milwaukee Federation would seriously consider moving away from renting a facility to having their own property. The Metzger family donated to the Federation seventeen and a half acres of land on the Upper White River Millpond four miles outside of Wautoma, Wisconsin. There were six brothers and sisters in the Metzger family, each sibling owning a share of the land around the Upper White River Millpond. When Phillip died, four of the shares of land were combined to the seventeen and a half acres of land.⁴ The Metzger's donated the property in the name of their brother Phillip, to be used for camping.⁵

Robert Gust and Rudy Johnson wrote a letter in an attempt to prevent the Milwaukee Federation from going ahead.

"We feel that a camp with about 400 girls, boys and supervisors would overcrowd our 50 acre lake. It will bring the value of our properties down with the resulting noise and

² Letter to Pastor Roland Zimmerman by Marvin Wernicke (March 19, 1978)

³ From Statement of purposes accepted by representatives of Lutheran Pioneers and the Milwaukee Federation of Wisconsin Synod Ev. Lutheran Churches (March 9, 1966) which reads *"Whereas our present schedule includes three weeks of outdoor summer activities, our own facilities would permit an extension of camping and youth programs throughout the summer. Another extension of our service would be in the direction of our families by establishing retreats, weekend sessions, etc. ...all in all, a camp site of our own would guarantee a freedom of use such as we have never before enjoyed. As the Lord would grant blessing to our labors in developing a purposeful camping program, we would foresee a well-planned and practically executed building program initiated which in time would serve the Lord's cause in many ways."*

⁴ Interview with Pastor Tom Klusmeyer. Spiritual Programs Director at Camp Phillip.

⁵ Interview with Pastor Tom Klusmeyer,

pollution, etc. We are not allowed tents, but they plan on a 150 tent camp area, plus 6 large buildings, a main lodge, a caretaker's house, 6 piers, a beach and boat ramp all on 12 to 16 acres of lake frontage land. It will be used year round by various groups for church activities."⁶

Mr. Gust and Mr. Johnson also filed a petition opposing the Federation's filing to the Waushara County Zoning board to change it from Agricultural to Park and Recreation.⁷ "The basic petitioners' objections concerned themselves with: 1. The affect of removing this property from the local tax base thus increasing our taxes. 2. The detrimental affect this development will have on our property and the uses to which we now put the same. 3. Overcrowding and noise to the point of nuisance. 4. Pollution."⁸

Zoning Administrator Mr. Leo Sarnowski did write a letter pointing out the advantages of having the camp in the area.⁹ However, the Waushara County Zoning Board denied the zoning change.

The rejection of the Zoning Board meant restrictions on the type of buildings that could be built on the Metzger property.¹⁰ In his Camp Report to the Camp Committee on September 12, 1969, Marvin Wernicke, Camp Committee Chairman, outlined several options of how to proceed. Camp St. Michaels, a camp run by the Salvation Army, located near Hancock, WI, was listed as an option. Gerald S. Vanselow, an architect, offered an evaluation of the facility to the Federation board. However, the Board decided to reapply for a zoning change in the Metzger property on January 9, 1970.¹¹ That application was canceled.

⁶ Letter written to members of the White River Lake Association (1969).

⁷ Minutes Camp Committee April 23, 1969

⁸ Dated March 20, 1969

⁹ Minutes Camp Committee April 23, 1969.

¹⁰ Minutes Camp Committee April 23, 1969.

¹¹ Minutes Board of Directors of Milwaukee Federation of WELS churches, Inc. June 12, 1970.

Since our attorneys recommended that we should not attempt to pursue the zoning matter further and the Metzgers agreed, the committee was going to recommend that the Metzger property be sold, having their permission, and purchase another campsite. However, since the camp meeting, many neighbors felt that they were pressured into rejecting this and that we could get the County Court in Waushara County to be favorable. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to go to court with this matter.¹²

The frustration continued to increase. "For the past two years the development of a camp site has been like a political football, it has been tossed back and forth and no decisions reached. It is time we took some definite action."¹³ The Camp Committee attempted to make arrangements with Attorney Jon. P. Wilcox to appeal the Zoning Board's decision in January of 1971. However, Jon Wilcox denied the Camp Committee's request because he "would have a conflict of interest based on my representation of this area in the State Legislature and the issue being use of church property on a lake."¹⁴

Had Pastor Art Schaefer not intervened and sought the services of David Sinner, an attorney, the dream of having a camp on the Metzger property may never have been realized. Dave Sinner felt that the chances of winning the zoning case in Circuit Court were about 25% and to the State Supreme court they were about 90%.¹⁵ In September of 1973, the County Board reversed the decision made in 1969.¹⁶ Work was underway immediately to complete an environmental impact study. This study found that construction should be done on the top of the hill and not on the lakefront property.¹⁷

¹² Ibid

¹³ Marvin Wernicke, in a letter to an Elmer G. Zebell, dated January 12, 1971.

¹⁴ Letter written to Gerald S. Vanselow from Jon P. Wilcox, dated April 13, 1971.

¹⁵ Minutes Camp Committee November 30, 1971.

¹⁶ Minutes Camp Committee September 21, 1973.

¹⁷ Minutes Camp Committee February 13, 1974.

The Federation was also able to put a down payment on an additional 117+ acres from Harley Putskey in late 1971¹⁸. It would take complete ownership of the additional acreage in 1974. In order to keep its conditional use permit and its tax-exempt status, they broke ground for a shelter building.¹⁹ The President of the Wisconsin Synod, Oscar Naumann, preached at the dedication service at 2pm on Jan 7, 1975. Pastor Richard Seeger was the presiding minister.

The summer camp, still being help at Camp Willerup, had its share of challenges. Already in 1970 it was difficult to find enough volunteer staff to handle the amount of campers.²⁰ "When we arrived at camp July 28th to set up camp, we found that the trunks were broken into, the arrows missing, the boats in bad shape, the locks, ropes and anchors missing, sleeves in the oar locks all worn out."²¹ Facilities were hampering the summer camp program.

Not only were there problems with the facilities, the summer camp program had a shortage of spiritual leadership. "As years passed it became harder and harder to convince a pastor to spend a week at camp."²² The Camp Committee looked to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for help. They requested Seminarians to help out during summer camp. In 1972, Carl Henkel was the Seminarian for three weeks. In 1978 Thomas Nevins and Mike Plagenz were compensated \$50 a week for being the Camp Director. Marvin Wernicke recommended in his report to the Federation that a pastor was sorely needed.²³

¹⁸ Camp Committee Report September 10, 1971.

¹⁹ Now known as the Dining Hall.

²⁰ In 1970, there was roughly a 1/5 ratio of campers to staff. Marvin Wernicke had to hire a lifeguard to handle workload (From Camp Committee Report September 10, 1971).

²¹ Camp Managers Report 1979.

²² Letter to Pastor Roland Zimmerman by Marvin Wernicke (March 19, 1978)

²³ Camp Committee Report September 8, 1978.

The 1980's saw real development of the Camp Phillip property. Reports of vandalism and unreported usage of the Camp Phillip property prompted the Federation to build a caretaker's home on the site. Mel and LaVern Koss filled this position of caretaker.

The three weeks in the summer of 1980 were filled to capacity with a waiting list of 100. About 90% of the campers who came were from the Milwaukee Federation. With the number of campers increasing and waiting lists getting longer, it was prudent that the Camp Committee establish some sort of admission policy, to determine who could attend at the summer camp. So, in 1980 an admission's policy was implemented.

The Federation decided in its May 15, 1981 meeting that they would no longer use the facilities at Camp Willerup. Under the guidance of Mr. Paul Schoenike and Pastor Dale Baumler, the summer program was moved to a White Sox training camp outside of Brotherstown, WI. Because of the possibility of having the Federation's summer camp at new locations from year to year, the name "Son Shine Camp" was chosen as the name of the children's summer program.²⁴ This way, regardless of location, parents would know when they saw "Son Shine Camp" on brochures that it was the Federation's summer camp.

The summer camp had not yet called Camp Phillip its home, but Camp Phillip was not devoid of activity. In 1982, there were various workshops and weekend seminars held throughout the summer. A Photography workshop was offered in June, a Nature study weekend in July, and an Archery Workshop in August. Over 1,000 people used the camping facilities at Camp Phillip that year.

The Camp Committee now considered calling a full-time pastor. They felt that a full time Executive Camp Director would be able to: "Head the funding drive, be the public relations

²⁴ Interview with Pastor Tom Klusmeyer

with the Federation and other congregations in Northern and Western Districts, develop seminars and workshops, conduct weekly services at camp, hold evening chapel devotions during the week; attend to the building programs, loans, and winter use and winter development."²⁵ The Camp Committee began calling for a Pastor in March of 1983.

Despite having called for a pastor several times over the summer with no success, the Lord blessed the efforts at Camp Phillip. Those using the facilities there sure felt that way. "Many persons have looked forward to this day; The Lord has been kind. The facilities were manageable...the kitchen addition is well done; we all had the privilege of eating amidst tools, sawdust, and lumber."²⁶ "Even though there were some windows missing, kitchen incomplete, and sawdust in the dining area, the youngsters were thrilled to be the first. They were the pioneers. It was fun."²⁷

Pastor Tom Klusmeyer was called in September of 1983. He accepted the call and began in December. Pastor Dale Baumler continued to run the summer camp in 1984. Along with the photography, nature, and archery workshops, there were also fishing, gun safety, and computer workshops offered. More than 1500 attended Camp Phillip programs that year.

Having a full time pastor was key to expanding the programs. When Pastor Klusmeyer set up the summer camp in 1985, he expanded from three weeks in 1984 to six weeks in 1985. Pastor Klusmeyer began using the phrase "Relaxation in Creation, Renewal in Christ" in a presentation used for one-on-one soliciting of monies for Camp Phillip. This phrase would eventually become a part of Camp Phillip's mission statement.

²⁵ Camp Committee Report September 1982.

²⁶ Mr. Paul Schoenike, Co-Director's 1983 Son Shine Camping Report to the Camp Committee.

²⁷ Camp Committee Report September 1983.

With Pastor Klusmeyer, the camp was able to have programs year round. "[With] the dining area presently being winterized, the camp will be able to accommodate a minimum of 32 people no matter what the conditions out of doors."²⁸

Some interesting programs were introduced with Pastor Klusmeyer. There was a bike camp, in which campers were encouraged to bring their bikes. They logged over thirty miles of biking that week. Jesus Cares also began using the Camp Phillip facilities for retreats. Grade schools and Youth Groups began to use Camp Phillip during the non-summer months for retreat weekends. Pastor Tom Klusmeyer envisioned more. "We believe we can serve you all year long as you bring your classroom outdoors for studies on the sun and stars, wind and weather, birds and insects, plants and trees. Why not plan on coming for a day or two or three?"²⁹ Having Grade school groups come for outdoor education to Camp Phillip during the school year was not far off. In October of 1986, the name "Creation Caretakers"³⁰ was assigned to the developing educational program.³¹

Still more programs were added in 1986. While teens had been coming to the summer camp on and off since 1962, there was no program designed for training and guiding teens to best use their abilities. Twenty teens enrolled in the first "Junior Staff" program. Also added were Mother/Daughter and Father/Son weekends. The summer camp was lengthened to seven weeks.

²⁸ Camp Committee Report to the Milwaukee Federation of WELS churches, September 13, 1983.

²⁹ Letter to Principals by Pastor Tom Klusmeyer (November 1st, 1985).

³⁰ "Creation Caretakers" awakens all 5 senses to the beauty of God's creation, explains energy flow along with the soil, water, and air cycles, and motivates students to do their part in taking care of God's creation." (Camp Phillip Brochure December, 1986)

³¹ Camp Director's Report October 28, 1986. Hereafter cited CDR.

Not only were new programs being developed, but also work was being done to make Camp Phillip self-supporting. Camp Phillip in 1979 began the task of writing its own constitution. By writing its own constitution, Camp Phillip would be ending Federation support and being entirely self-supporting. In a September 20, 1979 meeting of the Federation it was resolved that, "That the Milwaukee Federation of WELS churches strive to reach a broader base for the purpose of directing a self-contained retreat center, which would include the entire WELS membership in the State of Wisconsin and adjoining area."³² Work on a constitution and eventual incorporation into a separate entity was picked up again in March of 1986. The task was slow going. With the help of Pastor Klusmeyer, the Camp Committee was not only able to work on a constitution, but also began thinking of a master plan.³³

Part of this master plan was having a summer-long camp. An additional week of summer camp was added in 1988, bringing to total up to eight weeks. Eighty-six adult volunteers and fifty-five junior staff ministered to over 500 campers. The quality of the program inspired improvement in facilities. There was discussion that year of a Low Ropes Course. Because a Low Ropes course would be beneficial for team building, a course was implemented and built in 1989. The Southeastern Wisconsin District used Camp Phillip for their mentally and physically handicapped ministries. After the excitement of summer camp, the camp committee on August 15th began talking about a full-time Program Director. The job responsibilities of the Camp Director and the Program director were clarified as follows³⁴

³² Camp Committee's Report to the Milwaukee Federation of WELS churches (September 20, 1979).

³³ Minutes Camp Committee August 30th, 1986.

³⁴ CDR September 27th, 1988.

Camp Director

Increase Public Relations effort by visitations to Pastor/Teacher conferences, Pastors and Teachers individually, and congregational organizations

Increasing Public Relations effort by publishing a newsletters

Develop new Public Relations programs annually using slide shows, accordion sing-along, sermons, puppets/ventriloquism, and unique object lessons

Conduct weekly services

Work through Church Camping accreditation process dealing with local and state regulations, health and safety procedures, goals and objects for programs, staff policies, personnel and resource development, site plan and vision for the future.

Pursue additional funding with capital expansion program, foundations, and banquets.

Organize volunteer work crews.

Further knowledge of this ministry through workshops, conventions, etc.

Prepare spiritual portion of Son Shine Camp

Prepare and carry out camp budget

Update office procedures

Prepare monthly Camp Director's Report

Assist Program Director when requested.

Program Director

Expand Son Shine Camp program to include yearly theme, archery program, high/low ropes course, initiative course, tripping opportunities, camp craft (without copying Lutheran Pioneer activities).

Prepare Son Shine Staff Manual

Recruit and train Son Shine Camp paid and volunteer staff.

Direct Son Shine Camp program

Expand earth education program

Lead earth education program especially in spring and fall.

Develop nature center with displays and hands-on activities

Explore possibility of additional programs such as Family Camp, Parent/Children outings, Christian concerts, Pee WEE and Kiddie Camp, retreats (singles, families, seniors, married couples, men, women, pastors, teachers, youth leaders, church leaders).

Work with retreat groups to plan and carry out their retreats

Maintain program equipment.

Prepare monthly Program Director's report

Submit programs needs for budget.

Assist Camp Director when requested.

In 1989, Cliff Schmoltdt accepted the call as Program Director, served that summer, and was formally installed on September 10, 1989. Steve Huhn and Tom Greve were also hired for the summer. Steve filled the roles of Program Assistant and Junior Staff Director and Tom Greve was the Waterfront Director. The Low Ropes Course was completed in 1989. Orientation meetings began to take place on Sunday afternoon before the campers arrived. This helped the

volunteer staff to be well prepared for the week ahead, and gave them a chance to get acquainted with fellow staff.

Despite a burning ban due to little rainfall that summer, eight weeks of summer camp blossomed under the care of Camp Phillip's dedicated full-time staff and volunteer staff. Work was done on Staff Contracts and a Manual so that volunteers could be better trained and prepared. This year there were thirty children on the waiting list. Son Shine Camp now had unique themes each summer. To support the increasing number of people using the campgrounds of Camp Phillip, electrical sites were set up. An Archery range was added.

Cliff Schmoldt improved the nature program. He entitled it "BE HIS."³⁵ Pastor Klusmeyer and Mr. Schmoldt attended a Christian Camping International convention and came back with ideas for administration improvements, including an introduction of weekly staff meetings. Megan Roberts began volunteering at camp.

Plans were put in place for a Family Camp weekend. Ken Kremer from Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service and Carl Natzke, a teacher involved with the CESE³⁶ program in Milwaukee presented information to thirty-five families. Along with a sing-along on Saturday night with Phil and Vicki Boileau, "activities included ropes course, campfire, games for children, entertainment by the Peace Lutheran Kitchen Band, and sing -a-long with Pastor Tom and Cliff...The response to Family Camp was very positive and we will be having it again next year."³⁷

³⁵ Beauty, Environment, Habitat, Interrelationships, and Senses.

³⁶ Christian Educators for Special Education

³⁷ Program Director's Report (September 1990). Hereafter cited as PDR

Campers breached the 600 mark with 639 campers for the 1990 Son Shine Camp. Lori Kienast was hired as Program Assistant and Cyndi Wendt was the lifeguard. The Bible Class this year focused on self-esteem and peer pressure.

More than 16 school groups participated in Earth Education programs from 1990-1991. Son Shine camp of 1991 was expanded to ten weeks. Over 700 campers pushed the Son Shine Camp to new heights. A nature camp week was among the ten weeks of summer camp. This Nature program was renamed "Creation Encounters."³⁸ Forty-six campers participated.³⁹ There was even programming done by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Jenni Klas and Todd Huhn were hired for the summer as program assistants. Kari Rosenberg was hired as waterfront director. Son Shine's emphasis that year was the importance of Bible study, how to study the Bible and how to remember what you studied. In August, Cliff Schmoldt accepted a call to East Fork, Arizona. Steve Huhn finished the year in his place before accepting the provisional call to be full-time Program Director in January of 1992. Steve Huhn's responsibilities were as follows:⁴⁰

Administration

- Keeping records of programs
- Ensure that programs meet health and safety requirements
- Set up/supervise Son Shine Camp program
- Set up/supervise the Winter Camp program.
- Oversee Earth Education program (otherwise known as Creation Encounters)
- Management of Summer staff

Program equipment

- Take care of all program equipment
- Order equipment with Camp Director's approval
- Program development and expansion

³⁸ PDR September, 1991

³⁹ The Nature camp will offer campers an opportunity to learn more about God's gift of nature and how they can be better environmentalists. Activities will include nature studies, making recycled paper, finding and eating wild edibles, building a birdhouse, sun drying fruits and vegetables. PDR April 30, 1991

⁴⁰ Taken from Program Director's position description 1991

LEAP⁴¹
 Son Shine Camp
 Earth Education
 Family Camp (Winter, fall, and Winter)
 Public relations/Staff recruitment and training
 Assist Camp Director with public relations by doing 10 school visitations between
 November 1992 and March 1993.
 Update Staff Manual
 Conduct staff training for paid staff.
 Conduct junior staff training week and training for adult summer volunteers.
 Assist with camp maintenance and upkeep when called upon to do so.
 Assist with cooking and kitchen chores when called upon to do so.

The years that Steve Huhn served his Lord at Camp Phillip can only be described as blessed. Many exciting programs were put in place that would benefit many for years to come. The years 1992-1995 brought facility improvements. The High Ropes course was built.⁴² The Low Ropes Course was relocated near the newly constructed High Ropes Course. The nature Center was improved

Two family camps were started in 1992. The Spring Family Camp (Memorial Day weekend) focused on family togetherness while the Fall Family Camp (Labor Day weekend) focused on family devotions. SOAR (Sports, Outdoor Adventure and Recreation) weeks added to the Son Shine Camp as numbers pushed past 900. Bible Studies during Son Shine Camp focused on Trusting God during tough times, spiritual diet, prayer, Satan and temptations, and memorization.) Steve Huhn also brought up the idea of a Family Fest to celebrate twenty-five years of Son Shine Camp.⁴³ Spring Family Camps focused on family uniqueness and communication, while the Fall camp focused on personality types drawing people together.

⁴¹ Leadership, Experiential education Adventure Programs.

⁴² PDR November, 1992

⁴³ PDR April 26, 1993

Fledging camp for 3rd-5th graders was introduced with great success. Fledging camp provided opportunities for children to go to camp for a half week instead of six days. Pee Wee camp started in 1993. Pee Wee camp was a day camp, during which the (K-2nd graders) campers stayed overnight with their parents while attending the day camp with Camp Phillip staff.

"Sing to the Lord a New Song" was the theme for Son Shine Camp 1993. Psalm 98:1-2 was the theme passage. Bible studies focused on the marvelous things of our God, what songs are God-pleasing, where we get our values, how to sing to the LORD in worship, daily Bible Study and prayer, and opportunities for service. 982 campers participated in Son Shine Camp that year. "Basically we topped out. If every bed would have been filled every week last summer we could have only held 128 more campers."⁴⁴ 977 campers came to Son Shine Camp in 1994. The theme was "Rooted to the Rock", based on Colossians 2:6-7. Password was a morning devotion that started that year.

In the midst of programs going well, facilities being maintained and built, and people taking advantage of Camp Phillip's relaxation and renewal, there were difficulties. It seemed that when Satan started losing the battle of preventing Christians from taking advantage of the ministry at Camp Phillip, he shifted his attack to the leaders. Miscommunication by staff caused many hurt feelings and difficulties. For example, in 1994 the year round staff asked for and received Monday's off during the off-season, so staff meetings were no longer held on Mondays. This led to the directors at camp to feel disconnected with each other. Not only did the devil attack the communication between the staff, he also attacked them personally. Steve Huhn brought up in an April 26, 1994 meeting of the Camp Committee that he was having difficulties subscribing to the Lutheran Confessions with a "quia" subscription. He felt that he was "not

⁴⁴ PDR September 25, 1993.

notified of this when this call was extended to me...we (Steve and his wife Liesl) just feel that the Bible and not the Lutheran Confessions is the final authority on doctrine and if there were ever a question between the two we would look to the Bible for the answer. I am bothered by saying 'Because' since it seems in my mind to be equating the authority of the Lutheran Confessions with that of the Bible."⁴⁵ Steve was willing to study the issue more. The Camp Committee encouraged Steve to stay at Camp Phillip thereby encouraging him to continue to wrestle with. Whether Steve would come to an understanding of the norma normans of Scripture and norma normata is not known. All parties showed their evangelical spirit and desire to be strengthened in the faith and instructed by the Word of God.

Jay Wiechmann came on staff as an intern for the first time in 1995. His internship lasted until the summer of 1995. Peter Searls, the property manager of Camp Tiwaushara, a nearby camp, was hired for a time as maintenance specialist.⁴⁶

Incorporation was brought up again in September of 1995.⁴⁷ The Federation's desire to see Camp Phillip self supporting coupled with the camp committee's desire to minister to more congregations and individuals than in the Federation. Meetings were held in 1995 to establish who could be a member, an individual or congregations?⁴⁸ In order to accommodate those on the waiting list, use of a public campground away from Camp Phillip was discussed in December. This motion was denied.⁴⁹

⁴⁵ PDR April 26, 1994.

⁴⁶ CDR April 25, 1995

⁴⁷ Minutes Camp Committee September 23, 1995.

⁴⁸ Minutes Camp Committee January 24, 1995

⁴⁹ CDR Dec 6, 1994

The Fall Teen retreat was attended by eighty teens.⁵⁰ The teens studied feasting on Spiritual food (Matthew 4:4), an inductive Bible study method. It was the first teen retreat held at Camp Phillip.

1995 began with a staff reunion entitled "Servant Attitude." Seventy former volunteer staff and paid staff came. The Teen Retreat had seventy-two teens participating. Its focus was evangelism.⁵¹ The first Outdoor Adventure program was setup entitled Adventure Quest. Spring Family Camp theme was "This is my Father's World." Fall teen treat was "Improving your serve." Son Shine Camp theme was "Once for all." They studied the book of 1 Peter.

Federation support began to reflect its desire that camp be self-supporting. In the December meeting in 1994, plans were laid out to decrease its financial support over a five-year period. Already in 1995 1/12 of the usual amount was received from the federation.⁵²

Steve Huhn decided to attend East Tennessee State University to pursue a Master's Degree of education in Storytelling. "Steve has added many programs and has brought such creativity to our ministry; he has given us ideas to work on for the next ten years. Liesl has helped with programs and has been our secretary for the past couple years."⁵³

Since the idea of using public campgrounds as overflow was denied, other solutions were explored. The Exchange Club, who owned Camp Tiwaushara, (located in Redgranite) encouraged the Camp Committee to take over management of the camp. This was pursued and

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ PDR April 24, 1995

⁵² Annual Report, 1995

⁵³ CDR September 23, 1995.

in 1996, with a 3-5 year lease signed with the Exchange Club,⁵⁴ the Camp Committee ran two camps, one in Wautoma and one in Redgranite.

In January of 1996, Camp hired Isa Breihan and Megan Kubaska (nee Roberts). They considered hiring a Business Manager to help in finding funds to support the camp, but funds were too tight.⁵⁵ They began calling for a Program Director. In the meantime they hired Jay Wiechmann and Trina Bufe as Program Assistants.

March 21, 1996 was a pivotal day for Camp Phillip. It was on that day that the first meeting of Camp Phillip Inc. was held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of West Mequon.

Son Shine Theme was Run for the Prize (Philippians 3:14). Bible studies focused on studying 2 Timothy. Trina and Jay were made permanent Program Assistants in September⁵⁶

Trina does all the planning and scheduling for the mid-week groups and Jason does the same for the weekend groups. Trina Jason and I then work with all the groups as the schedule, numbers and subject area dictate. When groups are not at camp, Trina is developing and organizing year-round environmental education activities and Jason is working in the camp p office with program brochures, staff recruitment brochures and weekend program development.⁵⁷

While leasing Camp Tiwaushara was an opportunity for those on waiting lists to benefit from the programs developed by Camp Phillip staff, the projection of campers for the year 1996 was 300 campers short. Camp did not receive over \$50,000 in projected income.⁵⁸ "We ended the summer in the worst financial shape of the 12 years I have been at camp."⁵⁹

⁵⁴ Minutes Camp Committee January 23, 1996.

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ CDR September 21, 1996

⁵⁷ Annual report for 1996

⁵⁸ CDR September 21, 1996.

⁵⁹ Pastor Tom Klusmeyer in Staff Happenings, October 1996.

This was the second year of Camp Tiwaushara. Again the Camp Committee projected that there would be 300 more campers coming to Son Shine Camp. Its numbers were not what was anticipated. There were 181 campers going to Camp Tiwaushara the first year and 140 campers the second year. The Camp Committee had to do cutbacks. Peter Searls employment was terminated the summer of 1997.⁶⁰

Trina Bufe accepted a one-year teaching call and left October 15, 1997.⁶¹ Jenni Klas was hired as the Environmental Program Director.⁶² The year-round staff responsibilities were:

	Pastor Klusmeyer Camp Director	Jay Wiechmann Adventure programs director	Jenni Klas Environmental Education Programs Director
Activity areas (Year round)	Bible Studies Sing Along Worship Services	Adventure programs Campfires Caving Rock Climbing Ropes Course Tripping	Environmental education Portable program for schools Winter sports Outdoor sports Waterfront
Program Responsibilities (Summer Camp)	Bible Studies Devotions Staff growth	Adventure programs Evening games Ropes Course Some specialty camps Summer Youth Camps	Crafts Creation Encounters Jesus Cares Waterfront
Program responsibilities (Family programs)	Family Fest Family Camps (With Jay)	Adventure Camps Various Parent/Child camps Teen Adventure Days	Fledgling camps Grandparent/Grandchild camp Pee Wee camps
Scheduling (Year Round)	Annual calendar Camp-Sponsored weekends Confirmation retreat Men's Retreat Women's Retreat Fund raising visits Public relations visits Weekly Staff meetings	Camp Sponsored weekends Staff winter retreat Teen retreats Young Adult retreat	Grade school groups

⁶⁰ Minutes Camp Committee May 6, 1997.

⁶¹ CDR September 12, 1997.

⁶² CDR September 12, 1997

Camp Phillip faced some budget shortages because the number of campers using both Camp Phillip and Tiwaushara campus was not what was anticipated. Some programs also were discontinued. Night Owl, a camp where campers were awake during the night and slept during the day was dropped. This was partly because of concern for neighbors at Camp Phillip. Running, swimming and servant specialty camps were also discontinued due to lack of interest.⁶³

From 1999 to 2001 there was a high turnover for Environmental Educational Programs directors. When Jenni Klas resigned as Environmental Education programs director in 1999 because she was getting married to Tad Schubring. Suzi Eldred took the call to be Environmental Educational Programs Director. When Suzi Eldred resigned in 2000 because she was getting married to Matthew Krenke. Kelly Dobberpuhl took the call to be Environmental Educational Programs director and resigned in 2002 because she was getting married to Dave Ruddat. Because of the high turnover rate, the responsibilities among the year-round staff stayed the same to being stability to the position and to the programs at Camp Phillip.

When it comes to the origin of a Christian camp, one might ask, which came first, the programs or the facilities? In fact, there can be tension in an organization when it comes to the importance of the facilities or the programs. This importance can be seen in a discussion of what to build or what to do.

Carrying out the Great Commission involves building facilities. While Christ's command to go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching them empowers us to accomplish it, he leaves the details of what method we use up to us. Christians since then have used facilities to support Christ's mission for the church. These facilities did not dictate the mission of the church; they supported the mission already in place. Jesus also puts proper perspective when it comes to

⁶³ Annual Report 1997

church facilities. While in Jerusalem looking at the temple, the disciples as they said, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" (Mark 13:1) Jesus reminded the disciples that God's people's purpose was not to build facilities. It is a message for Christians today also. We dare not let the facilities dictate to us what programs we ought to do. We dare not let ourselves lose sight of why we build what we build. Let us never echo the disciples, who momentarily focused on what was built instead of the reason any church building exists.

Where does Camp Phillip go from here? In recent history, Camp Phillip has had to deal with readjusting its conditional use permit. It has terrific opportunities to bring the programs of Camp Phillip to congregations. In fact, the summer of 2004 Camp Phillip developed a day camp, where Camp counselors would go out to the congregations and work with them to bring Camp Phillip's flavor of relaxation in creation and renewal in Christ to the cities, towns, and villages.

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