



MINISTERIAL HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

THE FUTURE OF MINISTERIAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE OHIO DISTRICT: POINTS OF INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL WORKERS

1. For several years in the late 1990's the Ohio District's Ministerial Health Commission was working hard at developing an intentional wellness ministry for those LCMS professional church workers who worked within the boundaries of the Ohio District. By early 1999, the Commission had completed a job description for the position of Director of Ministerial Health for the Ohio District and began interviewing qualified candidates. A suitable candidate was identified and called, and in September of 1999 the Rev. Robert Myers of Roselle, IL was installed as the district's first Director of Ministerial Health.
2. During the spring of 2007 Pastor Myers quietly indicated his desire to retire from the position of Director of Ministerial Health effective the last day of March, 2008. During the fall of 2007, due to the convention mandate to expand the number of regional Mission and Ministry Facilitators throughout the district, it became clear that the position of Director of Ministerial Health would not be able to be filled after Bob Myers' retirement. In order to find a way to keep this area of ministry up and running after March 2008, a contract was entered into with Pastor Myers to work quarter-time for the district in developing a new way of providing ministerial health services to our professional church workers and their families.
3. Three components are in the process of being developed to meet this challenge.

FIRST is the development of a cadre of 5 to 8 regional Professional Worker Caregivers. These clergy, some retired, some still serving in the parish, will be the ones whom our professional workers or their family members would contact in order to have a trained and compassionate person to listen to their story and help them see their options. Absolute confidentiality is assured, just as it has been in the past between workers and the Director of Ministerial Health. See the attached description showing how this works. Bob Myers is responsible for the training of these Caregivers. At present there are three functioning as such. You will find attached a list of their names and contact information.

SECOND is the establishment of a new Ministerial Health Commission. This group of concerned professional workers and lay persons will see to it that: a) the Caregiving Ministry is funded, staffed, and monitored; and that b) workshops and other opportunities are made available to professional workers to help them develop skills and behaviors that enable them to be pro-active regarding their own and their family's well-being.

THIRD is the "Well-Gathering" initiative which last fall completed it's three year experimental stage. The three trial clusters are still meeting eight times each year for five hours of contact time each meeting. Our goal is to launch three to five more groups during 2009/10. The target areas are the southern and north-eastern parts of the district.

*Your comments and/or questions about the above would be appreciated.
Contact Bob Myers at RMMyers@USFamily.net, or 440-463-3802 (cell)*

**REGIONAL CAREGIVERS SERVING
THE PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS
OF THE
OHIO DISTRICT, LCMS**

ALLEN TRAPP (Caregiver, Northeast Area)

E-mail: jo777al@aol.com.

Phone: (home) 440.845.9821 (secure voice mail)
(office) 216.381.1513 (secure voice mail)

Address: St. John Lutheran Church
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South Euclid, OH 44121

GIL DUCHOW (Caregiver, Central/Southern Area)

Email: duke3726@gmail.com

Phone: (home) 614.850.9416
(cell) 614.535.7240

Address: 3726 Boathouse Drive
Hilliard, OH 43026

STEVE NIERMANN (Caregiver, Northwest Area)

E-mail: sniermann@sjl.org

Phone: (church) 419.598.8961

Address: Rev. Stephen Niermann
St. John Lutheran Church
16035 County Road U
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BOB MYERS (Equipper and back-up for Caregivers)

Timothy House Ministries
Kelleys Island, OH (May-Oct): 419.746.2429
Medina, OH (Nov-Apr): 330.722.0702
Cell Phone: 440.463.3802
RMMyers@usfamily.net

2/23/2009

The Services Provided to Ohio District Professional Church Workers and Their Families By the District's Regional Caregivers

(As communicated through the acronym "Care More")

Confidential Consultation

Those contacting any of the Regional Caregivers can be certain that their issues will remain absolutely confidential between them and the Regional Caregiver they contact.

Appropriate Affirmation

Encouragement is a strong part of this ministry's intent. Where such affirmation is needed, it will be offered appropriately and abundantly.

Responsible Referral

When necessary and mutually agreed upon, those contacting a Regional Caregiver will be referred to competent helping professionals who have been screened and are committed to working with the Caregiver to provide an integrated umbrella of care.

Effective Education and Equipping

Much of this ministry's focus is to work on developing and offering opportunities designed to assist healthy workers remain fit for ministry, and also to assist struggling workers to more effectively deal with the problems and pressures they face.

These services are available to . . .

Ministers

Of

Religion

Extended (District professional workers and their families.)

(Rev. 2009.03.08)

CONFIDENTIALITY AND THE REGIONAL CAREGIVER

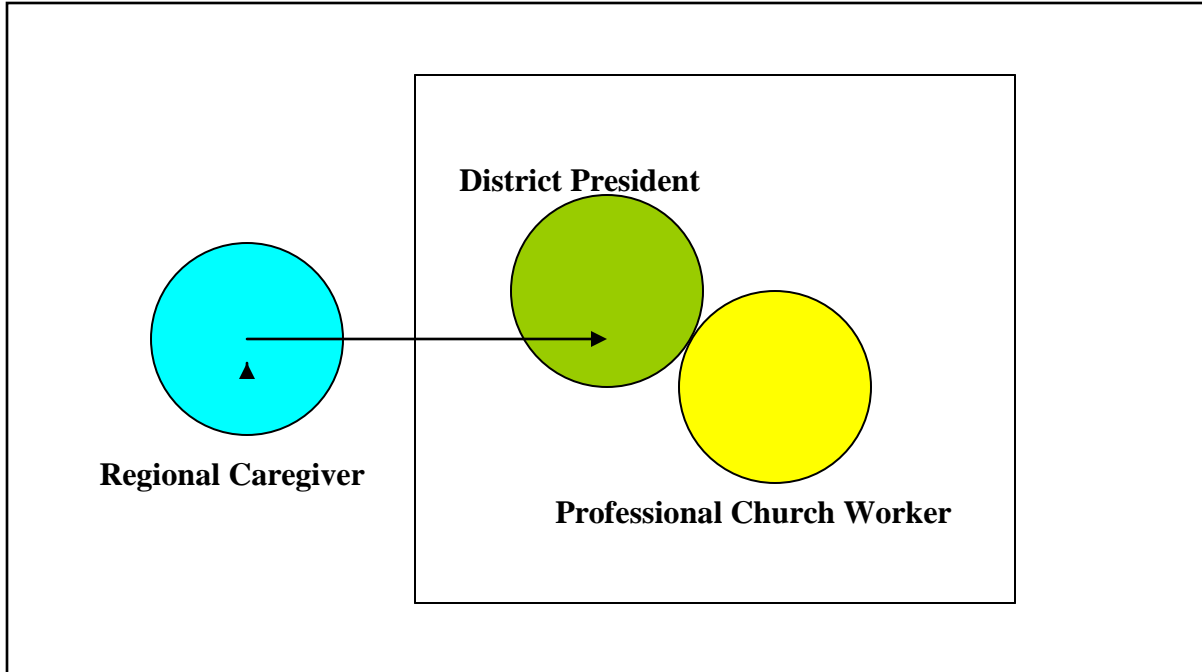


Illustration “A” Above: When the District President is working with a Church Professional Worker and/or a worker’s family he may choose to call in one of the Regional Caregivers to serve as a case manager. In such cases the confidentiality, represented by the square box, is not just between the Caregiver and the worker, but includes the District President since the Caregiver is acting as his agent.

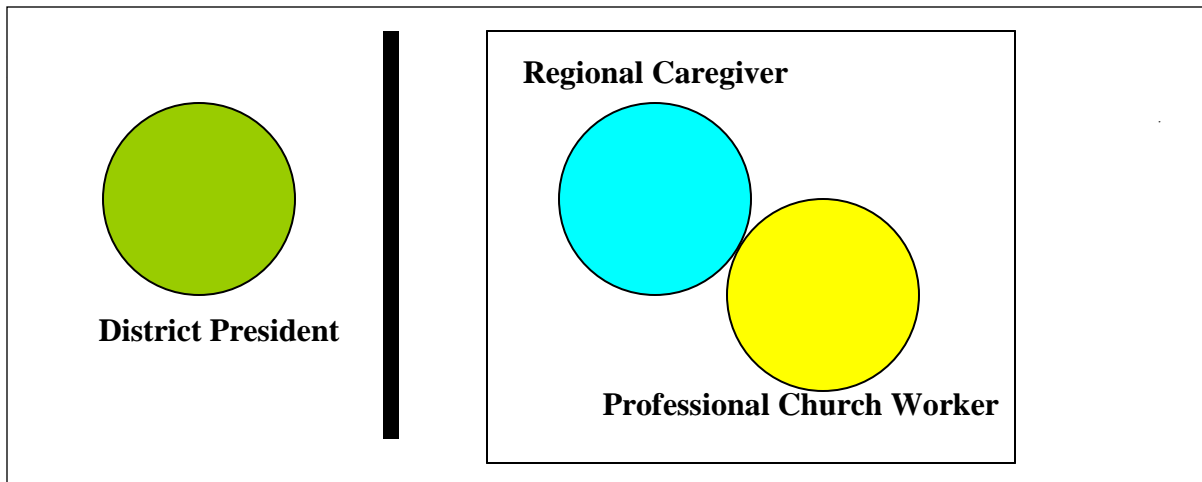


Illustration “B” Above: When the worker contacts a Regional Caregiver, or when the Caregiver contacts a worker on his own initiative, all that is shared in these conversations is between them alone as indicated by the box in the diagram above. A “Fire Wall” exists between this exchange and the District President or any other person. The worker can contact a Regional Caregiver for a confidential conversation knowing that is exactly what it will be.

(Revised 2/24/09)