

# Wisconsin

# Conference

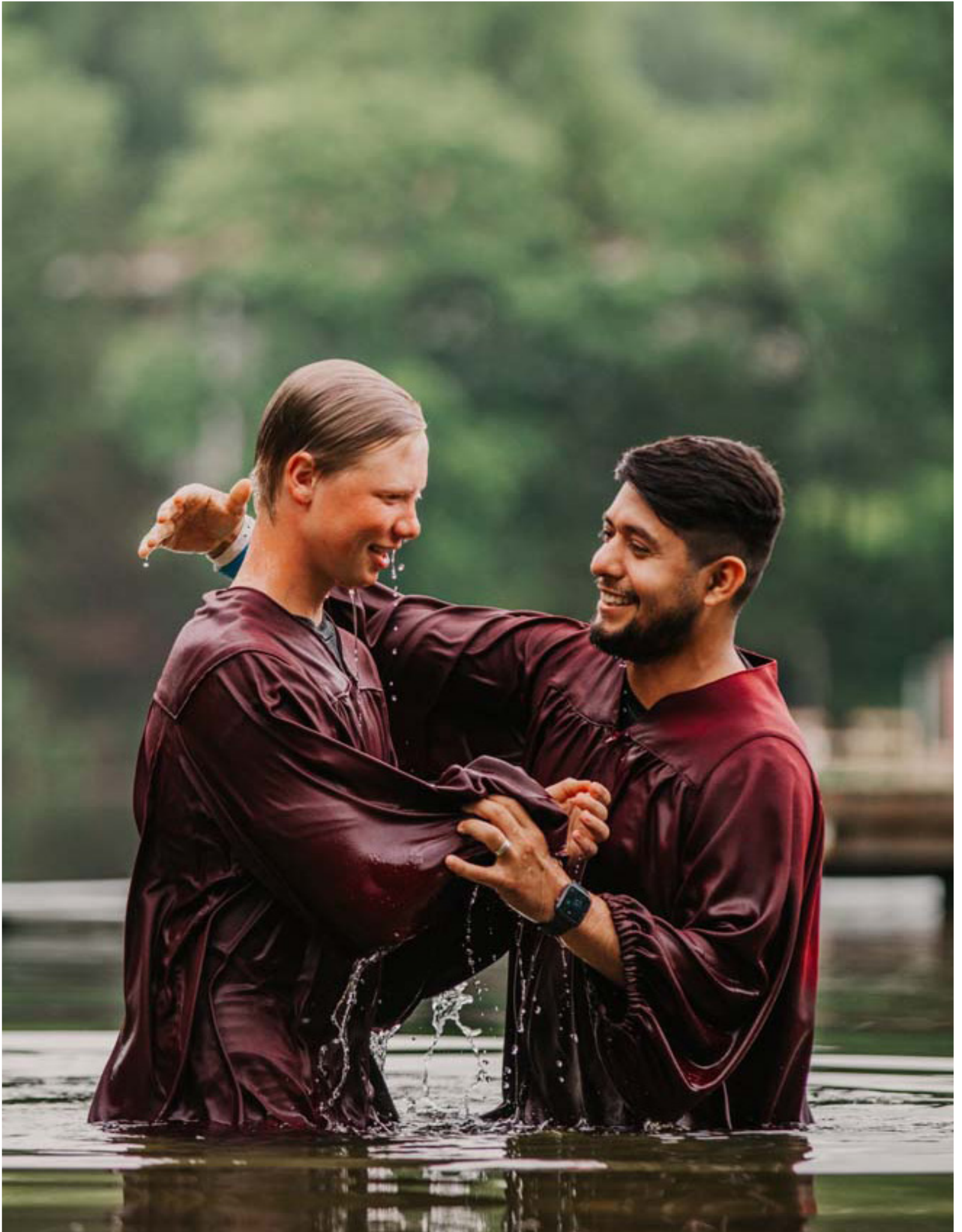


39<sup>th</sup> Constituency Session Report



October 16, 2022







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Whitefish Bay



Milwaukee

West Milwaukee



# Greeting

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**It is my privilege to welcome you** to the 39th constituency meeting of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Every four years, we gather to reflect, review and celebrate God's miracles in our territory. But most importantly, we are invited to discern His will for our mission until Jesus comes.

The past four years have been a blessing for our conference despite the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. We have seen God's mighty hand during the prolonged personal and collective restrictions.

We praise God for membership and financial growth that was beyond our expectation. He kept us united in our mission as ambassadors of hope for a world that seemed to collapse. Many lives have been touched and transformed through the Holy Spirit.

When Isaiah heard the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" (Isaiah 6:8), he spontaneously responded: "Here am I! Send me." (v.8). Our God still needs messengers today, men and women, young and old, to be purified by His Spirit and enabled to respond, "I Will Go."

We have no need to fear the future for we know God is with us as we faithfully serve our churches and communities. May God bless you as you reflect on God's providence for His church in Wisconsin.

In His service,

*Titus Naftanaila*

Titus Naftanaila, President







**Titus Naftanaila**  
*President*  
*(Since 2021)*

Janesville

# President

## Summary of Experience

- Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Coordinator in Romania (1998 – 2001)
- Adventist Theological Institute Teacher in Romania (1999-2001)
- Pastor in the Muntenia Conference in Romania (1995-2001)
- Pastor in the Illinois Conference (2001-2007)
- Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University (December 2007)
- Pastor in the Wisconsin Conference (2007 - 2020)
- Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Coordinator; Stewardship Ministries Coordinator (2014 - 2018)
- Personal Ministry/Lay Pastor Training Program Coordinator (2018 - 2020)
- Doctor of Ministry from Andrews University (August 2022)

**As we reflect on the last four years** since our 2018 Constituency Session, we are filled with gratitude and thankfulness to God for His providence and care for His beloved church in Wisconsin. There is no reason to focus on our achievements and challenges without acknowledging His special intervention and grace for all of us.

At the last session, under the leadership of retired President, Mike Edge, the Wisconsin Conference constituency adopted the Connecting to Serve theme that guided all the ministries and projects coordinated by our departments, churches, and schools.

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, our churches, schools, and ministries demonstrated inventiveness and creativity, finding new ways of fulfilling the call of God for us.

In essence, the mission of the Wisconsin Conference has been and continues to be, “to grow passionate disciples of Jesus prepared for Christ’s soon coming.” In the recent years, we have focused on four areas where relationships were considered the building blocks for God’s Kingdom. We will look at these, and review our current strategic plan in the pages that follow.



## Mission

- The president facilitates visioning and planning to help accomplish the church's mission. He also provides direction and leadership to each department and ministry of the Wisconsin Conference. Areas of focus include: planning, finance, board management, personnel, organization and institutional representation, fundraising and program delivery.

## Mandate

- "The President, who shall be an ordained minister of experience, is the first officer and shall report to the Executive Committee of the conference in consultation with the Secretary and the Treasurer.
- "The President shall act as chairman of constituency meetings and the Executive Committee, and work in the general interests of this Conference as the Executive Committee shall direct.
- "In his leadership he shall adhere to the policies of the Lake Union Conference and the North American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and work in close counsel with the Lake Union Conference Committee on Administration.
- "The President shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office."

As stated in the Wisconsin  
Conference Constitution



# Connecting to Serve Initiative 2018-2021

## CHURCH-CONNECT

Every church was invited to be a welcoming spiritual community, where members and guests are encouraged to experience genuine belonging and interconnectedness. The goal of this initiative was to provide a transformative spiritual and relational environment that fosters spiritual growth and Christlike character.

In this respect, our churches were encouraged to:

- Provide biblical preaching and teaching that focuses on the gospel of Jesus and His call for people to grow closer to Him each day.
- Provide a mentoring environment where leaders are developed for service in the church and the world.
- Be a center of outreach into the local community, touching lives through various forms of evangelism.

In the last four years, by God's grace, over 180 evangelistic campaigns were supported by the conference, besides other events organized by local churches or small groups. Thousands of people were brought into contact with the Advent message through personal ministry, distribution of Adventist literature, and the 15 radio stations across our state. Six-hundred new members were welcomed to our church family through baptism and profession of faith.

Our 27 pastors, seven lay pastors, and local church leaders were encouraged to create a discipleship culture where new converts and existing church members have the opportunity to grow spiritually and to use their spiritual gifts for the edification of the Body of Christ.

We also witnessed an increase in the transition of church plants becoming companies, and companies becoming churches. As a result of these changes, we have 62 churches as well as 30 companies and groups throughout the five regions of our conference.

## EDUCATION-CONNECT

The main focus of this initiative was to create a partnership comprised of parents, churches, and schools to fulfill the mission of our Education Department: "Developing leaders today who will walk with Jesus into eternity."

The goal of Education-Connect was "to reach our young people within the educational context and by word, action, and role-modeling, guide them so they will grow up to be positive influential citizens in their communities, who reflect the love of Jesus in all they do."

Our K-12 educational system continued to be a high priority for our conference. Besides the consistent support from the local churches and constituencies, the conference spent approximately 45 percent of their total budget to support Adventist Education on all educational levels in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.





Besides focusing on academic achievements and holistic development of the students, our six elementary schools, two junior academies, and Wisconsin Academy strongly emphasized spiritual and missional dimensions. Multiple projects and activities in local communities, other states, or abroad touched numerous lives and fulfilled various needs. Our dedicated teachers and volunteers supported our students and had innumerable opportunities to exercise their ministry of service and love.

### **CROSS-CONNECT**

A high priority for the Wisconsin Conference was to promote intergenerational discipleship and spiritual growth. All members were invited to become disciples of Christ and God's ambassadors on earth, using their spiritual gifts to extend God's kingdom in our territory.

Mentoring and empowering all generations, especially children and young people, continued to be crucial for our conference. Thus, various programs such as Adventures, Pathfinders, summer camps, winter retreats, Public Campus Ministry, JAHWI, and Young Adult Ministries have promoted the opportunity for emotional, social, and spiritual enhancement.

Both local church programs and conference led initiatives contributed to a beneficial intergenerational discipleship process with a powerful impact on our youth, with eternal outcomes. They used relevant and modern ways of communicating God's love and acceptance for all. Our youth were invited to follow Jesus and become leaders in their local churches or schools.

### **COMMUNITY-CONNECT**

Through this initiative, churches and schools across the state were encouraged to create more bridges with their respective communities: various services, resources, and assistance were provided to meet personal and community needs. Disinterested benevolence was manifested by coordinating free dental/vision clinics, health expos, counseling sessions, community services, food pantries, special assistance for refugees, and numerous other social services and crisis interventions. These events provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in of services in value without expecting anything in return. Showing the love and extending the touch of Jesus, alleviating the pain, and offering spiritual assistance was the ultimate goal of the Community-Connect initiative.



# Wisconsin Conference Strategic Plan 2022-2026

As we celebrate God's blessings for our conference this new quadrennium, we will be focusing on five main areas of our ministry adopting the General Conference, North American Division, and Lake Union theme, I WILL GO.

## OUR THEME:

I Will Go

## OUR VISION:

Advancing the Adventist mission in Wisconsin

## OUR MISSION:

The Mission of the Wisconsin Conference is to develop a culture of transformational and intergenerational discipleship whereby Jesus is multiplied in the life of every member

## OUR CORE VALUES:

- We value God's Word and His wonderful message of the saving grace of Jesus Christ and His ability to change our lives to reflect His character
- We value the people in our churches that God develops as His disciples in Wisconsin
- We value the charge given us to share the good news of Jesus to the people of Wisconsin in preparation for His soon coming

## OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS:

- Revitalization and Discipleship
- Leadership Development
- Educational Excellence: Mentorship, Growth, and Service
- Wakonda: WI Conference Youth Evangelism
- Proclamation Evangelism and Community Involvement







# Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Goals

## 1. Revitalization and Discipleship

- Promote a culture of the revitalization of every member through reflective Bible study, prayer, and worship
- Foster a positive environment for welcoming and integrating new members into the life of the congregation
- Provide intergenerational discipleship opportunities for every member and guest
- Increase the rate of retention and reclamation
- Encourage a Biblical stewardship climate and provide resources and materials to every church

## 2. Leadership Development

- Promote a culture of excellence for pastors, teachers, and church administrators
- Cultivate and implement an intentional pastoral training and leadership development program for leaders at every level
- Support pastors for advanced professional and academic degrees
- Enhance and expand the Volunteer Lay Pastor Program
- Offer mentorship and coaching resources for new pastors and teachers
- Conduct training sessions focusing on spiritual gifts

## 3. Educational Excellence: Mentorship, Growth, and Service

- Conference-wide vision and support for Adventist education
- All schools to promote educational and spiritual excellence
- Foster professional and academic development opportunities for teachers
- Make Adventist education possible for every Adventist child
- Expand the number of Adventist schools in Wisconsin
- Create an environment for practical service and love for the community





#### 4. Wakonda: WI Conference Youth Evangelism

- Provide impactful leadership training for all youth and young adult leaders, including club ministries, public campus ministries, and camp ministries
- Create a youth ministries communication program, which will involve training young people in various communication methods, including a social-media discipleship program for youth and young adults
- Develop an environment for growth by active wholesome recreation, social, and spiritual interconnectedness
- Engage the youth and young adults in local and statewide church life and various missions and ministries in conjunction with our department's goals
- Establish and bolster Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF, the NAD's PCM program) chapters in major public colleges and universities around the state

#### 5. Proclamation Evangelism and Community Involvement

- Engage every ministry and member of the church in integrated evangelism
- Provide training, resources, and inspiration for pastors and lay evangelists
- Offer financial support for churches and small groups
- Conference-wide direction and vision for shared goals in community presence and outreach
- Hold evangelistic campaigns in every church
- Distribute outreach literature in communities without an Adventist presence
- Develop methods and ministries to reach emerging immigrant populations

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, let us reflect on God's holiness and contemplate on His providence as presented in Isaiah 6:1-8. Despite all uncertainties of the present, God is still on His throne, "lofty and exalted," holding our future in His hands. Let us allow the vision of love and purity of God's character to transform our lives and purposes as we become His ambassadors for a lost world. May every member of the Wisconsin Conference respond with an attitude of service saying, **I WILL GO**, as we reach our communities with Jesus' love.

In His Service,

*Titus Naftanaila*

Titus Naftanaila







## EDUCATION

The entire student body gathered for Wisconsin Academy's traditional SA Fall Picnic. There's nothing like outdoor games with friends on a sunny day to help students bond at the beginning of the school year.



## EVANGELISM

One of many baptisms during Hmong Camp Meeting held at Camp Wakonda in 2021.



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In 2021 the pastors, teachers, and conference leaders enjoyed a few days of fellowship and spiritual inspiration before heading back into their service areas across our Wisconsin Conference.









**F. Brian Stephan**  
*Executive Secretary/  
Treasurer  
(Since 2011)*

# Executive Secretary

## Summary of Experience

- BA in Business Administration and an MBA with accounting emphasis from Andrews University
- North American Division Trust Services Certified since 1988.
- Served from July 1980 to May 2011 as Under Treasurer and Associate Treasurer for the Michigan Conference

**The past four years have been filled** with social unrest, overwhelming change, and of course, a worldwide pandemic. There is no question we have been impacted. Despite these challenges, our church and dedicated members continue carrying out our mission with resilience. As evidence, the Wisconsin Conference recorded 216 baptisms and professions of faith in 2021, the highest in nine years.

While the past four years have been challenging, it is evident that God's presence is still with His church and that it has a most critical task yet to complete. In the book Evangelism, God's servant to the church gave insight many years ago that seems to be very relevant for our day where she states:

"There is a great work to be done yet, and every effort possible must be made to reveal Christ as the sin-pardoning Saviour, Christ as the sin-bearer, Christ as the bright and morning star, and the Lord will give us favor before the world until our work is done." EV p.65 EGW

This reminds me of the "The Great Commission" from the lips of Jesus Himself as he spoke to His disciples, saying:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

As we look forward to 2023 and beyond, may we never lose sight of our Savior and our mission.

## Mission

- The Office of Secretariat works closely with the Conference President in visioning, supporting, overseeing, and directing the ministries of the church.

## Mandate

- Oversees organization of 62 churches, 11 companies, and 17 mission groups representing a total membership of 7681 members as of December 2021
- Accumulates statistics and compiles membership reports for the Lake Union Conference and the North American Division
- Maintains service records for all employees of the Conference
- Processes credentials and licenses for all Conference employees
- Maintains compliance with the Child Protection Policy voted by the North American Division by ensuring that training and background checks for employees and volunteers of the Conference are completed and current

- Facilitates scholarships and applications for new pastor's attendance of the seminary

- Processes retirements for Wisconsin Conference employees

- Chairs various sub-committees as voted by the executive committee

- Oversees compliance with North American Division policy

- Records minutes for important meetings and proceedings

- Works closely with the President by serving on various administrative and visioning committees

- Chairs the Constitutions and Bylaws Committee

- Oversees compliance with state laws

- Ordained 7 pastors to the gospel ministry

- Processed 15 retirements for conference employees

- Major update of employee handbook in 2021

See graphs on page 23

## Milestones

- Reported 599 Baptisms
- Current membership as of December 2021 is 7681
- Recorded 293 actions taken by the Executive Committee







**F. Brian Stephan**  
*Executive Secretary/  
Treasurer*  
(Since 2011)

# Treasurer

## Summary of Experience

- BA in Business Administration and an MBA with accounting emphasis from Andrews University
- North American Division Trust Services Certified since 1988.
- Served from July 1980 to May 2011 as Under Treasurer and Associate Treasurer for the Michigan Conference

**We certainly live in challenging and uncertain times.** While this has mainly been true regarding social unrest and healthcare, it has also been a concern in the financial world. Throughout this pandemic, church treasurers across the denomination looked fearfully ahead for financial ramifications that would be potentially damaging to our mission.

While the pandemic certainly has brought pain and suffering to our church in multiple ways, we are praising God that, for the most part, our conference finances have not been negatively effected. As you look at the accompanying graphs, quite the opposite has occurred. This has come as a pleasant surprise for which many of us are thankful. Without question, the primary reason for our good financial position is due to the financial faithfulness of our members throughout this pandemic.

A particular word of gratitude to you, our faithful members. Your continued financial support and steadfast commitment to this church to spread the gospel in your communities is beyond measure. The Lord has blessed through your faithfulness.

A precious promise is given to us in Jeremiah 29:11. It states, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (NLT)

God indeed is equipping His "church" for meaningful work. May we collectively as a conference, and individually, pray and seek to know the plans God has for us.

The office of Treasury actively manages all financial aspects of the Wisconsin Conference.

## Mission

- The mission of the Treasury Department is to provide administrative and financial services for the operation of the Wisconsin conference and its institutions, churches and schools. It also serves as a trustee and a steward of the funds it receives as directed by the working policies of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist

## Mandate

- Cares for HR needs of employees
- Office Manager
- Oversees proper use and distribution of Tithes & Offerings
- Provides payroll services to conference employees, local churches and schools, camp Wakonda, Wisconsin Academy, and WA Industries
- Ensures compliance with NAD financial policies and governmental requirements
- Provides financial statements to operating boards
- Oversees risk management for all conference properties, including appropriate insurance coverages

- Provides financial oversight for Camp Wakonda and Wisconsin Academy
- Prepares an annual budget
- Provides software and IT support and audits of local churches and schools
- Oversees proper investment of funds per NAD policy
- Provides facilities management for camp, academy, and conference
- Assists local churches and schools with financial arrangements with the Union Revolving Fund
- Serves on numerous boards overseeing camp meeting, camps, Wisconsin Academy, Wisconsin Academy Industries, Personnel, and Plant Services
- Provides accounting for Trusts, Annuities, Endowment Funds, and WA Industries

## Milestones

- Distributed \$449,938 for Evangelism to local churches
- Hired full-time Conference Evangelist

- Oversaw changeover of Camp Meeting/ABC store management from Indiana ABC to Wisconsin Academy Industries (DBA The Lighthouse)
- Applied for and received \$1,444,325 from PPP Cares ACT, directly appropriating \$590,351 of those funds back to local churches, schools & WA
- Paid off our Conference line of credit with Lake Union Conference as well as inter-fund borrowing
- Increase in net assets of conference operating from \$731,977 in 2018 to \$2,711,171 in 2021
- Increased NAD recommended Working Capital (reserves) from 40% in 2018 to 86% in 2021



## Treasury Statistics

### Tithe 2018 - 2021

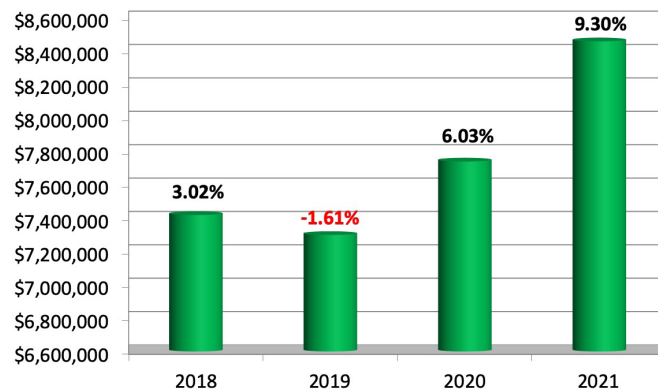


CHART 1

Tithe received from 2018 to 2021 with percentage change from previous year

### Retained Tithe Distribution for 2021 \$6,435,642

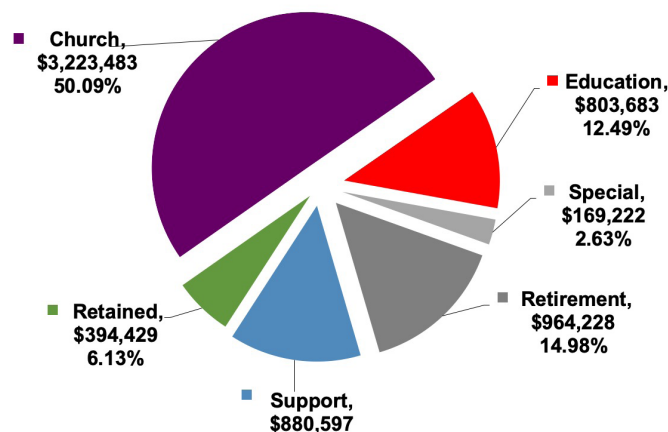


CHART 2

This is how retained tithe was expended for 2021 conference operations listed by category as follows:

**Church** - expenses include pastors, evangelism, summer camp, camp meeting, ministerial department and youth ministries.

**Education** - includes Education department, teacher subsidies and Andrews University subsidies.

**Special** - expenses include communication, community services and trust departments.

**Retirement** - sent to the NAD retirement plan.

**Support** - funds the operations of the conference office maintenance, salary expenses for staff and administration, insurance and auditing services.

**Retained** - are funds set aside for working capital (reserves).





# Treasury Statistics

Conference Net Assets 2018-2021

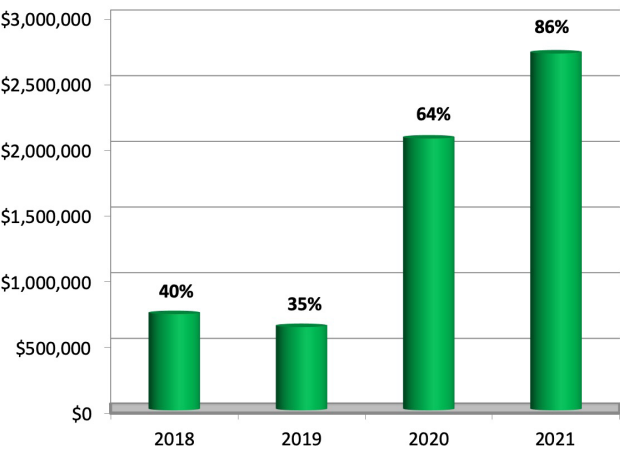


CHART 3

Conference Net Assets represent the net worth of the conference. Percentage expresses the amount of working capital (reserves) the conference held at each year end compared to amount recommended by NAD policy.

Wisconsin Budget 2018 - 2021

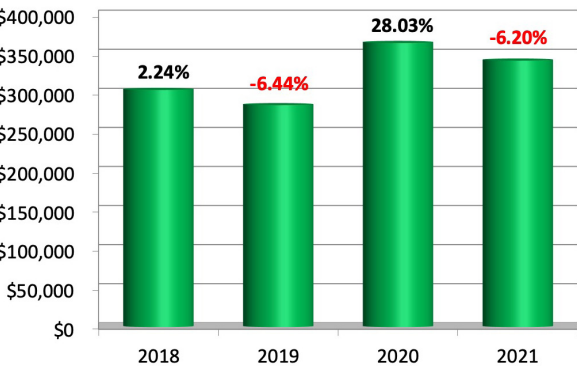


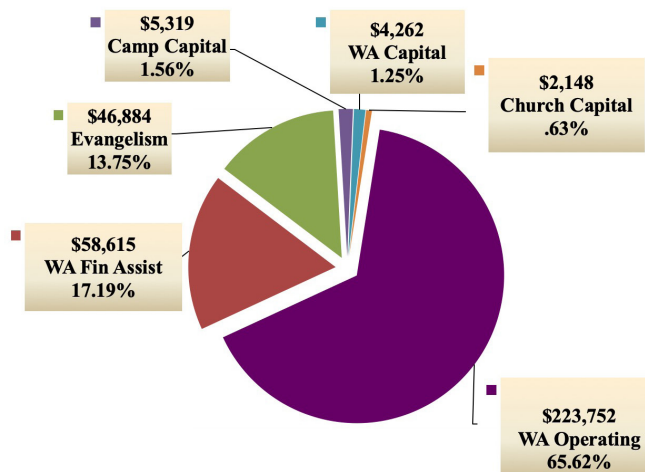
CHART 4

Wisconsin Budget received each year with percentage change from previous year.



## Treasury Statistics

**Wisconsin Budget Distribution For 2021**  
**\$340,980**



**CHART 5**

This chart breaks down the expenditures by percentage of the Wisconsin Budget offering in 2021. These percentages will remain the same pending a vote by the constituency to change it. The current percentages were set by a vote of the 2010 constituency.



# Secretariat Statistics

## Baptisms & Professions of Faith

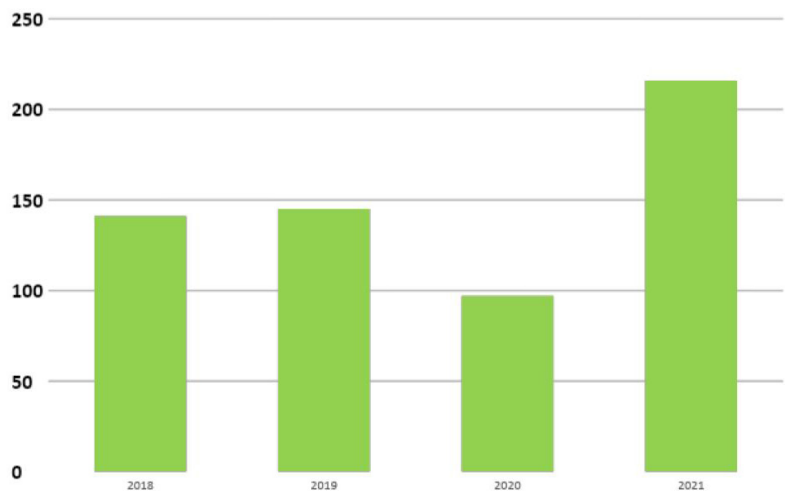


CHART 1

Baptisms and Professions of Faith across the conference saw a rise in 2021 over the three previous years.

## 20 Year Ending Membership



CHART 2

Over the last 20 years, membership in Wisconsin churches has risen from 6,648 to 7,681.







**Adam Case**  
*Ministerial Director*  
*(Since 2016)*

Appleton

# Ministerial

## Summary of Experience

- BA Theology from Southern Adventist University (2001)
- M.Div from Andrews University, SDA Theological Seminary (2006)
- Pastor in the Wisconsin Conference (2001-2013)
- Pastor in the Nevada/Utah Conference (2014-2016)
- Doctor of Ministry degree from Andrews University (2021)

**COVID-19 has only been with us** for two of the past four years, but it feels like it has consumed our lives for far longer than that. It's almost hard to remember what the world was like "pre-COVID." This is true in our personal lives and is certainly true in the church.

Spreading the gospel and worshipping together as we were accustomed to came to a screeching halt a little over two years ago. I have been thankful to God for the way He has worked through each of you to find new and creative ways of continuing to fulfill the gospel commission.

In 2020 we had ambitious plans to baptize 300 people. Then the world locked down. However, God blessed in amazing ways that year as we struggled to find ways to remain connected and continue to build healthy communities. We fell far short of our baptismal goal in 2020, but given the world around us, the 105 people that were baptized that year seemed like a million. God wasn't surprised by what was happening around the world and the Holy Spirit was still reaching hearts.

In addition to continuing to grow the Volunteer Lay Pastor program, plant new churches, and providing mental, spiritual, and moral support for our pastors, we have continued to come together to find new and creative ways to spread the gospel. Currently, we look forward to big things in Wisconsin. We have shifted our focus away from baptisms (decision to follow Jesus that come from the promptings of the Holy Spirit) to Bible Studies and proclamation events. In other words our focus is on asking the question, "Do you want to follow Jesus?" And we are letting the Holy Spirit do what only He can do. We recognize we can't change peoples hearts, only God can do that. We have set a conference wide Bible study goal of 2,400 Bible studies for the year!

The big surprise to many of us was 2021. Our churches and pastors were faithfully plodding along in unfamiliar territory as relates to health and safety, and God blessed us with the biggest baptismal growth year we've had in the past 10 years! We serve an awesome God and I can't wait to see what He's going to do next.

## Mission

- It is my desire to live as a Spirit filled, Godly man, using and improving the mental, physical, and spiritual gifts that God has given me, so that I can serve my family, friends, and church in a balanced, Christ-like manner, giving them my love, time, and attention in the context of the great gospel commission, as Jesus would have me do.

## Mandate

- Serve as the Pastor's Pastor. Mentoring, ministering, and supporting them as they seek to faithfully serve their congregations in the Wisconsin Conference
- Train and support our growing Volunteer Lay Pastor team, empowering them to fulfill their God given potential
- Provide direction and support to our pastors and churches in the areas of church growth and evangelism
- Empower pastors and lay people whom God is calling to plant new churches in Wisconsin

## Milestones

- Grown Volunteer Lay Pastor Program to over 45 participants
- Support seven Volunteer Lay Pastors in pastoring local churches under the supervision of district pastors
- Encouraged and guided pastors as the Holy Spirit led 626 people to give their lives to Jesus in the last four years
- Provided support and direction to 28 districts composed of 90 churches, companies, and church plants
- Planted 10 new churches in our conference over past four years
- Assisted seven church plants in becoming companies during this quadrennium





### CHURCH PLANTING AND GROWTH

Over the past four years we've planted 15 new churches in Wisconsin and it has been a blessing to see them grow and blossom into companies and then reach full church status.



### LAY PASTOR TRAINING

Our Volunteer Lay Pastor program has grown to over 45 participants and we are blessed to have seven Volunteer Lay Pastor's who are pastoring local congregations.







#### MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

Our quarterly pastors meetings remain an important part of training, team building, and communicating with our amazing pastoral team.



#### BAPTISMS

2021 was a banner year for baptisms, bringing in the highest baptismal total we've seen in a decade. Our annual camp meeting baptism is one of the highlights.







**Sue Nelson**  
*Education Superintendent*  
*(Since 2019)*

# Education

## Summary of Experience

- BS in Elementary Education from Andrews University (1996)
- MA in Educational Administration and Leadership from Capella University (2015)
- 12 years teacher/head teacher (1 room, Prek-8, K-10) in Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin
- 6 years teacher for Small Schools Workshop Lake Union
- 8 years directed Outdoor School in Dakota Conference
- 12 years summer camp leadership in Dakota Conference
- 2 years Education Superintendent Dakota Conference, Conference Pathfinder and Sabbath School Director

**Adventist Education is a vital part** of our church. Our education mission statement, "Developing leaders today who will walk with Jesus into Eternity" is what drives our initiatives and programs.

In 2019 teachers were encouraged to incorporate community service activities in their monthly curriculum. This ongoing initiative was called Students Engaging for Eternity. Teachers and students around the conference engaged in activities that created community and good will. Another way the education department connected students across the conference was through Outdoor Education for 5th and 6th graders, and Education Fair for grades 1-10.

2020 brought COVID-19. We provided training for on-line learning programs as teachers and students stepped out of the classroom in exchange for on-line learning. Weekly zoom meetings with all conference teachers provided support and camaraderie during this time. During this year teachers were trained to start using a new student information system (MAP) and a new Math curriculum (Big Ideas).

In 2021, as teachers and students transitioned back into the classroom the need for a conference counselor was evident. With the help of some grant money the education department was able to hire a counselor. It provided support for teachers, students, and families. Collaboration between the Ministerial and Education Departments brought back the pastor and teacher retreat for the desired results of a closer connection of our schools and churches.

2022 brought a renewed desire for students to get together. Thus, Science Experience for grades 1-4 was created. Students came together at Wisconsin Academy (WA) to enjoy hands-on activities while mingling with other students. A Facebook group was started for our elementary teachers to collaborate on English Language Arts topics led by the WA English teacher.

Thank you Wisconsin Constituents for supporting your schools around the conference in our endeavor to, "Develop leaders today who will walk with Jesus into Eternity."

## Mission

- To develop leaders today who will walk with Jesus into Eternity

## Mandate

- Serve as Executive Secretary of the conference Board of Education in administering and supervising the conference system of Pre-K and K-12 education in accordance with union and conference educational policies
- Serve as the agent of the conference K-12 Board of Education to coordinate and implement recruitment, placement, and transfer or termination of educational personnel
- Serves as the chair of all school personnel committees
- Responsible for the supervision and evaluation of educational personnel
- Monitor the school inspections for health & safety guidelines including asbestos matters
- Implement the Lake Union Conference wage scale as adopted by the conference Executive Committee
- Assure maintenance and safekeeping of student and employee records
- Develop a master calendar for each school year and consider any requests by school board for variations
- Facilitate the MAP testing program

- Consider applications for the establishment of new elementary schools in consultation with Board of Education
- Process requests for the establishment of junior and senior academies and requests to teach secondary subjects in junior academies
- Provide in-service education for teachers and principals
- Counsel with school boards and encourage active Home & School Associations
- Work with schools on the preparation of an annual school budget and monitor the financial position of the school throughout the year
- Review personnel assignments, teaching load, certification, and curriculum usage each year
- Support, mentor, and evaluate teachers
- Develop an annual K-12 budget in cooperation with the conference treasurer

## Milestones

- Initiated the hiring of a conference-wide counselor for teacher/school support, 2021
- Continued leadership for the following conference events: Grades 5-6 Outdoor Education, conference wide Education Fair
- Developed 1-4 Science Experience, 2022
- Collaborated with Wisconsin Academy English

Department to start a Wisconsin SDA ELA (English Language Arts) Facebook Group for teachers, 2021-2022

- Provided teachers with marketing materials and Professional Development for marketing schools
- Distributed 11 Koinz 4 Kidz scholarships to students around the conference
- Implemented S.E.E. (Students Engaging For Eternity) community project initiative
- Provided training for on-line platforms (Seesaw and Google Classroom) to be used during covid, 2020
- Collaborated with the Ministerial Department to restart pastor/teacher retreat and collaboration, 2021
- Provided support for the reopening of Frederic SDA School
- Arranged for the professional asbestos inspection of schools required every three years, 2021
- Implemented a new student information system, MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing and training for teachers, and a new math curriculum, Big Ideas, with training for teachers, 2020
- Provided for teachers to attend the annual WCRIS Leadership Conference, 2019-2020
- Developed a budget document for each school
- Trained and mentored five schools through school accreditations







### SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

Wisconsin Conference Education Department encourages science exploration by hosting Science Experience in the spring for grades 1-4. It is important that young people develop a love for science and the great "Scientist"-Jesus. Students dive deep into the world of science through hands on explorations, experiments, and more.



### OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Wisconsin Conference Education Department hosts Outdoor Education for 5th & 6th graders at Camp Wakonda every year in the fall. Students rotate through a variety of hands on nature classes taught by teachers while making new friends from other schools. The two main goals of Outdoor Education are to point young people to Jesus - the creator of nature, and to grow in their knowledge and love of the great outdoors.







## EDUCATION FAIR

Wisconsin Conference Education Department partners with Wisconsin Academy to host students in grades 1-10 at Wisconsin Academy for a full day of learning. Students enjoy seeing friends from around the conference while rotating through a variety of themed learning experiences.



## L.I.F.T. (LIFESTYLE IMPROVEMENT FOR TEENS)

This is a new program starting in 2022-2023 where students in grades 7-10 will gather for a three-day retreat at beautiful Camp Wakonda. This is an interactive retreat designed to inspire young people to make positive choices that will benefit their lives and the lives of others around them: spiritually, socially, and physically.







### FOCUS ON HEALTH

Both the Spirit of Prophecy and scientific studies show clear links between physical, mental, and spiritual health. That's why Wisconsin Academy encourages daily personal devotions, personal fitness and recreation, as well as academic achievement for the entire student body.



### TRADITION OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Wisconsin Academy seniors celebrate with a traditional toss of caps after graduation. During the past four years, 86 students have graduated from WA, continuing a tradition of Seventh-day Adventist secondary education in Wisconsin that stretches back over 100 years.



### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Wisconsin Academy students are regularly involved in community service activities from handing out G.L.O.W. tracts to shoveling snow from hospital worker's cars.











**Zachary Payne**  
*Youth Director*  
*(Since 2021)*

Kenosha

# Youth

## Summary of Experience

- M.Div from Andrews University, SDA Theological Seminary (2017)
- Worked with and lead camp meeting youth department (2015-2020)
- Served as Youth Pastor and Senior Pastor in multiple churches in the Wisconsin Conference (2012-2021)

**Recently rebranded as** “Wakonda: Wisconsin Conference Youth Evangelism,” we’re proud of what our Youth Department has accomplished over the past four years.

We hosted Chosen, the 5th International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, with more than 55,000 in attendance. Our Club Ministries have been thriving—reaching over 220 Pathfinders and over 150 Adventurers at a high point between 2017 and 2019.

Even during the season of COVID, our previous Youth Director, Pastor Eric Chavez, pioneered Wakonda On Wheels: a program that brought summer camp activities to young people across the state. Camp WOW, as we referred to it, reached over 124 kids, impacting 16 churches in Wisconsin, all during a time that normal Summer Camp was impossible.

This past summer, our current Youth Director, Pastor Zack Payne, was able to hold a mostly-normal and full-capacity summer camp, by having cabins rotate together, with less mixing and mingling throughout the day. Praise God, hundreds of young people made decisions for Christ at Camp Wakonda last summer, after a year of hiatus.

Young Adult Ministries will play a large role as this department moves into the future. Joshua Guerrero was recently appointed as Public Campus Ministries Coordinator, and will be working with young leaders across Wisconsin to reach secular campuses for Christ. Three Master Guide clubs were started, and Wisconsin’s first Master Guide Camporee took place in September. A discipleship campaign is under way to get Wisconsin’s young adults communicating and connected in ministry across the state.

We’re looking forward to another four years of empowering young people to GO wherever God calls.



## Mission

- To tell kids across Wisconsin that God has set them apart for His good work and has a plan for their lives.







### FAMILY CAMP

Father and son launch their prayer balloon at Family Camp, bearing the simple praise: "thank you for saving us."



### PATHFINDERS

Over 160 were in attendance at the Pathfinder Winter Retreat at Camp Wakonda in February.







#### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Summer Camp staff get ready to hit the slopes at Granite Peak, Wisconsin's largest ski resort, during the annual WinterFestaPalooza event in January.



#### PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

Public Campus Ministry Coordinator, Joshua Guerrero, presenting at the LUC Youth Congress about his team's ministry efforts at UW Stevens Point.





**Bill Ochs**  
*Planned Giving and Trust  
Services Director  
(Since 2019)*

Madison

# Planned Giving & Trust Services

## Summary of Experience

- M.Div in Theology from Andrews University, SDA Theological Seminary (1991)
- Served as Pastor in Wisconsin from 1991-2019
- Served as Corporation Secretary 2021-present

**As Seventh-day Adventist Christians** we recognize that the God of Heaven owns all things. He empowers His people with the ability to gain wealth and entrusts them with the gifts of time, talents, and possessions. We recognize the spiritual axiom that God's blessings provide for our personal needs, the needs of others, and the advancement of God's work on earth.

The Planned Giving and Trust Department of the Wisconsin Conference has been operating for over 50 years and has maintained Level A accreditation with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists since 1996.

The department is audited by the General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) every three years based on 47 standards set by our denomination. During the 2019-2020 audit, we again received a PGTS A3 accreditation, continuing a high level of professionalism and ministry.

In June of 2019, Bill Ochs, long-time Wisconsin Conference pastor began working as the new Trust Director for Wisconsin Conference. Shortly thereafter, the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way Planned Giving & Trust Services did their work. Personal visits in members homes were now done primarily by phone, utilizing email and mail. Instead of speaking in our local churches in person, we spoke via zoom. However, God still blessed during this unusual time, and by 2021 the department was back to visiting in homes and speaking in Wisconsin churches in person.

The Lord has blessed during the last four years (2018-21), with 94 agreements (wills, trusts, annuities) being created. During this same four-year period, the Wisconsin Conference has greatly benefited from receiving almost \$1 million dollars in gifts from matured wills, trusts, and special gifts, with approximately one-third gifted directly to our local churches and schools.



## Mission

- Help members and friends of the church be good stewards by making plans for the future to provide for the needs of their family and the Lord's work. Our faith in Christ, and the unique mission of the Adventist Church informs and guides our department

## Mandate

- Provide free of charge estate planning tools, such as: wills, trusts, gift annuities, donor-advised funds, power of attorney for health care and finance, to our church members, who after providing for their families, have a desire to leave a gift for the advancement of God's work here in Wisconsin
- Speak in local churches and visit in homes encouraging estate planning as an important element of a life of faithful stewardship
- Work closely with Conference Law Attorney to professionally assist donors with estate planning agreements
- Serve as Executor of donor's Will or Trust if needed
- Vigilantly adhere to the 47 standards of the General Conference Planned Giving department and seek to continually learn and implement best practices

- Minister in the name of Christ, to the donor's grieving families through prayer, attending funerals, providing resources, and helping as needed

## Milestones

- Visited members frequently in homes and churches, and preached in well-over over half of Wisconsin churches, making approximately 75 planned-giving presentations
- Over the last four years, the PGTS department has served over one-hundred families by providing wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities, and other important estate planning tools. The department currently holds or manages approximately 400 estate plan documents with over \$1.1 million in assets
- The number of estate documents created has increased each of the last four years
- During the most recent audit, our department received a PGTS A3 (highest level) accreditation, continuing a high level of professionalism and ministry
- In the last four years, 83 new estate-plan agreements (wills, trusts, annuities) were created, and 11 additional agreements were updated
- Improved and updated the Trust Department's database for ease of use

- Wrote articles for the Wisconsin Conference communications and the Lake Union Herald promoting Planned Giving and highlighting God's blessings
- In 2019 a trust gift was given to a local Wisconsin church for their existing radio station
- Wisconsin Conference received \$1.5 million dollars through the matured trust of a Wisconsin church member - the largest gift in its history. The Conference, Camp Wakonda, and Wisconsin Academy each benefited greatly from this gift



## Planned Giving and Trust Services Team



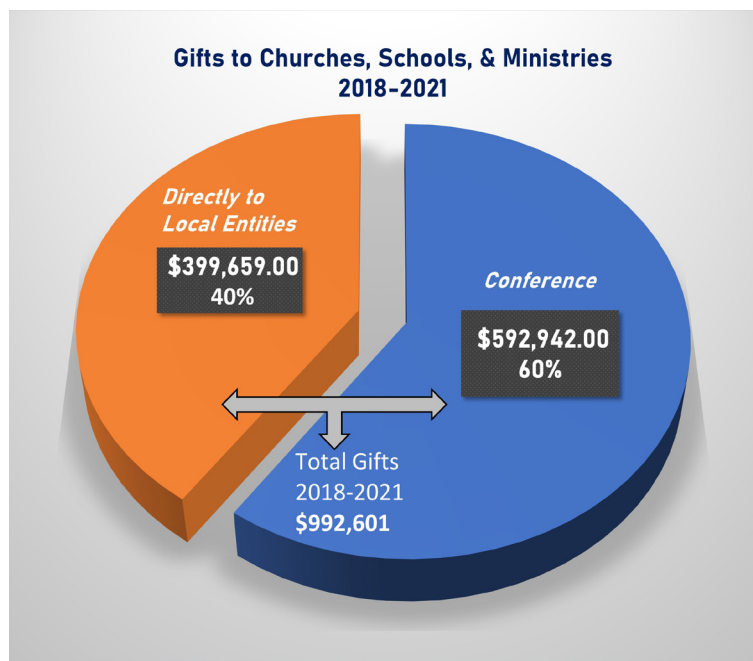
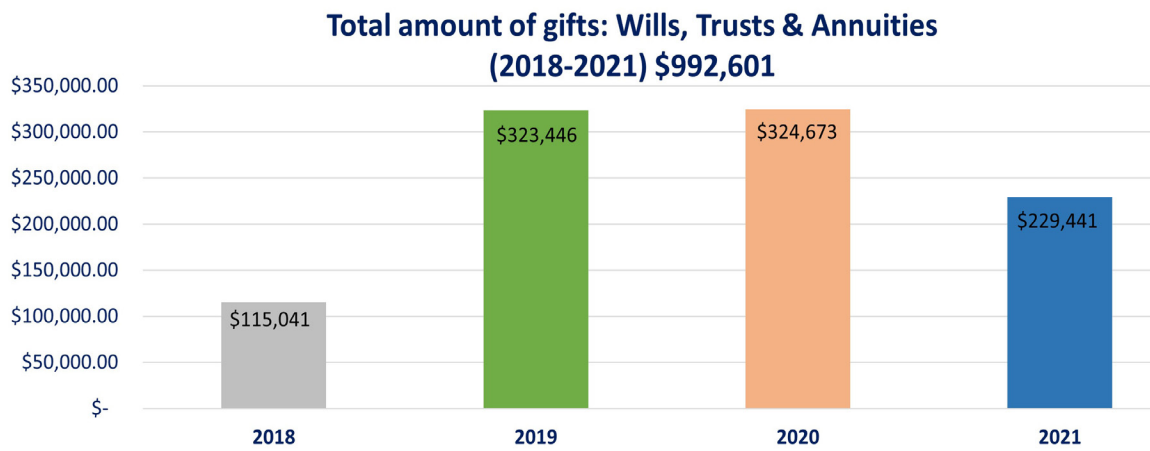
The Trust Director, Trust Accountant, and Conference Treasurer meet the mandatory requirements for annual continuing education in maintaining their respective certifications

Left to Right: Brian Stephan (Treasurer), LaQuita Anderson (Trust Accountant), Bill Ochs (Trust Director)

*"Money has great value, because it can do great good. In the hands of God's children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, and clothing for the naked. It is a defense for the oppressed, and a means of help to the sick. But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use in providing for the necessities of life, in blessing others, and advancing the cause of Christ."*

*Christ Object Lessons p. 351*





During this quadrennium, just under one-million dollars in maturities, income, and special gifts have benefited the Wisconsin Conference, with approximately forty percent going directly to our local churches and schools.





**Juanita Edge**  
*Communication Director*  
*(Since 2010)*

Waukesha

# Communication

## Summary of Experience

- 23 years as RN in home health, diabetic care, geriatrics, and rehabilitation.
- 15 years of summer camp leadership in Arkansas, Indiana, and Wisconsin Conferences
- 8 years as Health Ministries Coordinator for Wisconsin Conference

**Communication** is much like a highway for cars and trucks. It provides avenues for ideas, concepts, and information to travel freely to different parts of an organization. Our communication goal here in Wisconsin is to share the news, events, and stories that support the mission of our conference with all our Wisconsin constituents in an accessible, affordable, accurate, and timely way.

In 2018 a newly redesigned and refocused conference website was completed. It now supports over 150 pages designed to aid the public and members in finding reliable information about what Adventists believe, how we are organized, our ministries, and how to locate Wisconsin pastors and teachers, schools, churches, and ministry leaders. You can view our website at <https://www.wi.adventist.org>

In 2019 we began sharing quarterly video reports of work to advance our conference mission. The focus areas were Church-Connect, Education-Connect, Cross-Connect, and Community-Connect. These videos are available on our website Mission page.

The COVID19 pandemic of 2020 brought an increased demand for all our communication news vehicles, as our schools and churches ability to meet in person suddenly became limited. We praise God so many communication vehicles were already in place and ready to serve. Conference leadership began sending Web and Facebook updates daily on conference recommendations and responses to the rapidly changing state and national mandates. News flashes of closings were posted daily. Soon requests came in for food pantry donations and volunteers. Then hospitals and nursing homes needed cloth maskmakers. Zoom messages from our Conference President and other leaders were shared regularly to our constituents. Links to pastors sermons, Sabbath Schools, and prayer meetings were made available weekly to help our church family worship together, stay informed, encouraged, and connected. Praise God!

In 2021 while we slowly resumed opening our churches, schools, and camp, reliance on electronic communications remained strong, and in many instances has become routine and expected.

Our conference is a united body of believers with a message of hope to communicate to an ever-changing world.

## Mission

- To connect and inspire Adventists members across Wisconsin with the work and mission of their church

## Mandate

- Provide avenues of communication for connecting members with the work and mission of their conference, schools, and larger church family
- Serve as a communication resource for administration and departmental leaders
- Offer support for local church communication leaders
- Archive communication records and make them available to the membership
- Oversee collection of information and production of daily Camp Lamp, during annual nine-day camp meeting
- Work in conjunction with audiovisual to live stream and archive camp meeting sermons and seminars
- Provide calendar updates, stories and news items for the Lake Union Herald

## Milestones

- Completed a new user- and mobile-friendly conference website
- Re-formatted monthly eNewsletter
- Launched quarterly Connect video reports/updates on conference mission and goal efforts
- Produced/distributed our quarterly newsletter, the Lamp Letter
- Designed new full-color camp map
- Generated daily Camp Lamp newsletter for camp meeting each summer
- Posted daily news on conference Facebook
- Provided Lake Union Herald weekly stories and announcements from Wisconsin
- Researched/created camp meeting history timeline from 1867 through 2021
- Researched/produced timeline of Wisconsin Conference Presidents







**FACEBOOK**

Our Conference Facebook page provides a free, almost instant, and continual way of staying connected as a conference family. We are able to highlight daily news, events, decisions and changes, with pictures, stories, charts and videos.



**LAMP LETTER**

The Lamp Letter is a quarterly newsletter mailed to all baptized members of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. It contains local news, testimonies, upcoming events, transitions, and a variety of communication from conference office personnel.



**Lamp Letter**  
**Community Giveaway**

Vol. 23 No. 4  
November 2021



Community. A simple word that means so much, especially to those who attend the Madison Community Seventh-day Adventist Church. From the bi-monthly meals we prepare and serve at the local day shelter, to the Blessings Box we have in our front lawn that we stock weekly with food for those who may be facing food insecurities, to our newest outreach called, Project SMALL (Single Mothers and Little Lads), we are always looking for ways to engage our church within the neighborhood.

Faced with a room full of donated goods from church members as well as those in the community, we wondered what type of outreach event we could hold to reach those in need. Understanding the impact that Covid has had on many people financially, it came to mind that we hold a Community Giveaway. Instead of charging people for the goods, everything would be given free, creating an inviting environment where those could come, regardless of their ability or inability to pay for things, and take what they may need.

What started as a simple Community Giveaway, utilizing the donated items in the church basement, soon became so much more. Reaching out to local businesses, we were able to secure donations of fresh produce, bakery products, pizza, and ice cream tokens for kids that stopped by. Along with the donations from businesses, we put together a budget buying school supplies for local kids.

It is an understatement to say that the August 22 event went well. Nobody was

sure what to expect since this was our church's first time holding an event like this, but it was more than we expected. We saw around 75-100 people, some that came back more than once. Our inventory of school supplies ran out within the first half hour, as well as the toys, and tables of household goods. People were filling up boxes with bedding and clothing, in addition to stopping by the Blessings Box and stocking up on groceries.

We made sure to have volunteer church members in the yard, to make ourselves available for those that may need assistance or have questions. Along the way, many showed gratitude and appreciation for what our church was doing. One woman who stopped by stated that her family was finally moving into their first home after being homeless for the past three years. Another gentleman walked over and stated that he was

currently homeless and in need of clothing to survive the cold Wisconsin winters. Many of the kids that stopped took advantage of the juice boxes, popcorn, and frozen treats we had in the cooler, remembering our church from previous years of Vacation Bible School, asking if that's what was taking place and when it will happen again.

Speaking to many of the kids while their parents and/or grandparents took part in the giveaway, it became a question as to what other fun activities our church could host. One young boy suggested we host an outdoor movie night, with popcorn, cotton candy, and games. Another boy stated he wanted our church to just come over and play basketball with them.

Simple and small gestures mean so much to people. From hosting the giveaway

Continued on page 4





## WEBSITE

Our conference website serves as the front door to our conference, schools and churches. Research shows 97% of all people turn to websites as their first stop for finding anything; including our pastors, teachers, and administrators. They learn about our ministries and find reliable information about who we are as Seventh-day Adventist Christians. Our website information is available on both mobile and laptop devices.



## eNEWS

The Wisconsin Conference eNewsletter is sent out the first week of every month. Learn first hand about events happening in other Adventist churches, upcoming conference events, employee changes, Wisconsin Budget, member stories, and more!





**Alice Garrett**  
*Adventist Community  
Services Coordinator  
(Since 2012)*

## Adventist Community Services

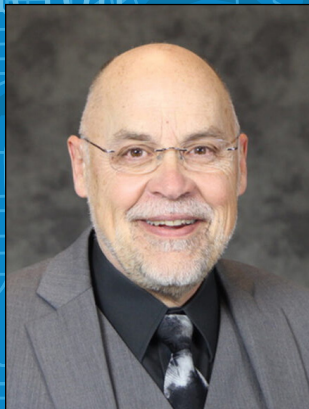
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**We provide support and information** for all areas of ACS ministries including: Disaster Response, Crises Care, Youth Empowered to Serve, Tutoring and Mentoring, Elder Care, Community Development, ACS Centers, Dorcas Societies, Thrift Stores, Food Pantries, Homeless Ministries, and more.

As we have not been able to hold trainings the past two years due to COVID-19, we were very happy to be able to have a Donations Operations training at camp meeting in 2021. Our goal is to hold two training events per year.

In September, 2021, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, received over 12,000 Refugees from Afghanistan. The need was great as these people came with the clothes on their backs. Our churches willingly donated NEW items of clothing, baby formula, and money. The support was overwhelming and we were able to supply nearly 3,500 needed items.

We will continue to work with our local leaders so that together we can share God's love in a practical way in Wisconsin.



**Tom Michalski**  
*Conference Evangelist  
(Since 2019)*

## Evangelism

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**Evangelism has been at the heart** of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since its very beginning. God has given us the responsibility of proclaiming the Everlasting Gospel in the context of the Three Angels Messages of Revelation 14.

Since January, 2019, I have had the privilege of serving as conference evangelist, meeting with churches all around the state and holding seminars. We have seen many come to Jesus, churches grow in attendance, and many continue to study God's Word.

In spite of COVID-19, the shut-downs, and limitations of the past two years, we have witnessed God's leading for the finishing of Matthew 28:18-20.

## Mission

- Serving Communities in Christ's Name

## Mandate

- Liaison between our conference and local ACS leaders, keeping them informed of upcoming events and plans
- Liaison between local ACS and Wisconsin Emergency Management officials
- Serves on Wisconsin VOAD (Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster)
- Encourages training and involvement in Disaster Response

- Maintains resource file of trained volunteers, available equipment, and facilities within the conference

- Obtains copies of all local church and area disaster response plans. Also has a state Disaster Response Plan and knows how to implement it

## Milestones

- Continue to visit local church's ACS to encourage them in what they are doing in their community
- Continue to Communicate with Conference plans of ACS activities
- VOAD meetings have been virtual conference calls the past two years

- The special camp meeting offering provided funds for volunteers to help during the Wheaton, Wisconsin, tornado in 2019. This offering also helps us further develop community outreach and volunteer training here in Wisconsin

- In 2020 the NAD generously gave each state a \$25,000 grant to help food shelves during the pandemic when so many were out of work. Several food shelves took advantage of this grant and it helped their communities

- Operate camp meeting display cabin where we display projects and teach various classes
- During camp meeting each year we have a special project to help the local area

## Mission

- "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 18:18-20

## Mandate

- Hold four full-length evangelistic campaigns each year in various churches in Wisconsin

- Increase member understanding of the importance of evangelism in regard to involvement, pre-work and follow-up

- Speak in churches on Sabbaths around the conference

- Offer Bible Instructor classes to conference members

## Milestones

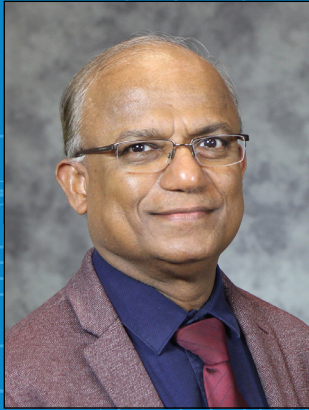
- Held evangelistic campaigns in Waukesha, Wisconsin Rapids, Milwaukee Central, Janesville, Tomahawk, Wausau, and Stevens Point churches since 2019

- Held conference-wide evangelism Prophecy Countdown series March/April, 2022, which was streamed live over the internet from Waukesha Church

- Baptisms linked with series since 2019 are difficult to calculate. Some churches reported up to 16 souls continuing to study and/or attend church following a series held in their area







**Abraham Swamidass**  
*Family Life Ministries  
Coordinator  
(Since 2004)*

## Family Life Ministries

**Families are a divine part** of God's plan and a crowning work of God's Creation. Family is the building block of society. The health of our nation and our churches are largely determined by the health of our families. The most important work we will ever do is at home. Former First Lady, Barbara Bush, said to the graduating students at Wellesley College: "As important as your obligations as a doctor, teacher, or lawyer, or business leader will be, you are a human being first, and those human connections—with spouse, with children—are the most important investments you will ever make. At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict, or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a child, or a parent."

Developing strong families can provide a safe place where children can not only experience God's love through their parents but also learn how to love other people. They can become the lighthouses to their neighborhoods. Ellen White says, "One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more on behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached." AH p. 32



**Yin Schaff**  
*Health Ministries  
Coordinator  
(Since 2021)*

## Health Ministries

**In 1903 Thomas Edison was** concerned about the health care of his time and stated "The doctor of the future will give no medicine, but will interest his patient in the care of the human frame, in diet and in the cause and prevention of disease."

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health (physically), as it goes well with your soul (spiritually)" 3 John 2 ESV.

Health is what we all want and desire but it does not come without challenge and effort. Our lifestyle has a lot to do with whether we have health or not. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is blessed that we not only have instructions from the Bible but from the Spirit Prophecy in Ellen G. White.

Dr. John Kelly of Immersion Lifestyle Program says, "Science has discovered that what we eat exerts the strongest influence on our gene expression, next to exercise." Thus a healthy lifestyle is the answer to reclaim total health - physically, mentally, and spiritually.

## Mission

- Equipping churches of Wisconsin to reach and empower families to grow in harmony with Jesus Christ and each other

## Mandate

- Work with the Family Advisory Board in strategic planning and management of conference-wide family ministry workshops and programming for families
- Offer training seminars for local church family ministry coordinators to create family-friendly churches
- Share current family life news with Advisory Board

- Provide resource and networking opportunities for pastors to be trained in the areas of pre-marriage and marriage counseling

- Present quarterly marriage and family seminars in all five regions of Wisconsin conference

- Invite family life speakers for yearly camp meeting

## Milestones

- Sharing each Monday current family life news with the Advisory Board
- Helped organize NAD family life workshops at camp meeting

- Provided resources for pastors so they can be certified to administer SYMBIS assessment for pre-marriage counseling

- Conducted family life workshops for local church coordinators at the Wisconsin Rapids church

- Worked with the Advisory Board to promote MAD About Marriage seminar for couples and singles at the Performing Arts Center. This was a community and conference-wide event

## Mission

- Wisconsin Conference Health Ministries endeavors to provide resources to local churches by empowering, encouraging, and equipping individuals to have a healthy lifestyle personally and as a community

## Mandate

- Create a ministry of hope and health for people within the church and community
- Support and resource local church Health Ministry Leaders
- Write health article for Conference eNewsletter

- Share resources and links of health events

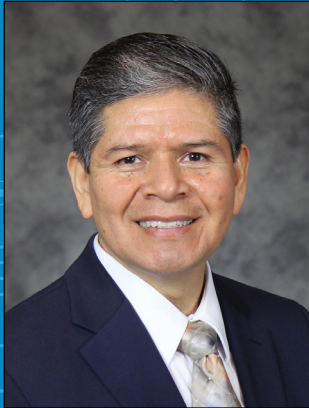
- Locate and invite yearly camp meeting health speakers

## Milestones

- Working to create a Health Ministries Advisory Committee in Wisconsin to develop a five year plan
- Re-imagining health ministry with lifestyle medicine
- Preparing to hopefully one day have an Immersion program under the supervision of Dr. John Kelly, Lifestyle Medicine Specialist







**Evelio Miranda**  
*Hispanic Ministries  
Coordinator  
(Since 2009)*

## Hispanic Ministries

**We praise the Lord that over the** past four years, He has helped us plant three new congregations here in Wisconsin as Hispanic Mission Groups: Rice Lake, South Milwaukee and Wausau.

Another blessing happened in 2021. Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Hispanic members exceeded \$1,000,000.00 in tithe giving. This is an increase of 13.02%. We rejoice in the goodness of God and the faithfulness of His people.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation, tribe, language, and people.” Revelation 14:6



**Michael Ehm**  
*Men's Ministries  
Coordinator  
(Since 2015)*

## Men's Ministries

**Wisconsin Conference Men of Faith is** an annual gathering of men, held once a year in January at Camp Wakonda. This event is well attended by men from Wisconsin Conference and from adjoining conferences as well. Men of all ages come for this special three-day event to fellowship together, listen to inspired messages by Spirit filled guest speakers, drink deep from the well of scriptures, and enjoy delicious meals, all in a casual and relaxing environment, at the Fireside Lodge.

These were the special guest speakers that have blessed us recently: for 2018 Pastor Nathan Renner, co-founder of ARISE; in 2019, we were blessed to have our Lake Union President, Elder Ken Denslow; for 2020, retired Michigan Conference President, Elder Jay Gallimore shared with us; then, sadly, in 2021 our retreat and guest speaker Clifford Goldstein had to be canceled due to the COVID Pandemic. Plans are to have a special Men of Faith Fall Retreat again in the future.

## Mission

- Minister and preach the gospel to Hispanic families in Wisconsin making disciples of Jesus prepared for His second coming

## Mandate

- Provide leadership and coordination to the activities of Hispanic churches and their different ministries such as: Men's and Women's Ministries, Health, Children, and Family Ministries, Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs, JAHWI, Master Guides, Personal Ministries, Community Services, Evangelism, Clerk's and Treasurer's Training

- Coordinate and direct the Hispanic camp meeting each year

- Organize the Metropolitan Evangelistic Campaign in the Milwaukee area and Evangelistic Caravan at the Conference level

- Organize the annual Hispanic Brotherhood Day

- Lead the Women's annual Evangelistic Banquet

- Promote Adventist Christian Education and support the different educational entities of the Wisconsin Conference

- Offer preventive health seminars to Hispanic Adventist congregations and communities

- Support the initiatives of the Lake Union related to Hispanic Youth and Women's Ministries

## Milestones

- In 2021 began monthly Bilingual Metropolitan Youth Rallies in Milwaukee

- Each year the Hispanic Women's Ministry holds an Evangelistic Banquet hosting more than 300 women, of which 50% are visitors. In 2019, they also began adding small health groups with much success

- In 2020 we finished SAL (Adventist Lay Seminar), a five-year journey of lay training with the support of Andrews University

## Mission

- Men's Ministries exists to encourage Christian fellowship and spiritual renewal among the men of Wisconsin

## Mandate

- Plan and coordinate an annual weekend retreat for the men of Wisconsin
- Locate and invite guest speaker and presenters who will deepen the faith and strengthen men in their walk with Jesus







**Jonathan Fetrick**  
*Public Affairs & Religious  
 Liberty Coordinator  
 (Since 2018)*

## Public Affairs & Religious Liberty

**The last four years have been** tumultuous for religious liberty in Wisconsin. While we responded to numerous Sabbath accommodation requests, it also became necessary for us to respond to rising social justice concerns in 2020 and significant personal liberty issues relating to COVID-19 vaccine mandates within the state in 2020 and 2021.

Following the lead of the Lake Union Religious Liberty department we continue to be active in conversations across the Lake Union discussing the engagement of our Seventh-day Adventist faith in politics, social justice, the work place, health choices, and more.

I have been privileged to work with the Religious Liberty department since 2015 in a couple of conferences, defending and supporting churches and members with their religious freedom issues.



**Jim Parish**  
*The LightHouse Thrift  
 Store Manager  
 (Since 2015)*

## The LightHouse

**The Lighthouse Thrift Store is a** non profit organization that began in February of 2013, and is operated by the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. It is affiliated with Wisconsin Academy, a private high school, as part of a work study program for the students. All items within the store for re-sale are received by donation. Proceeds from sales support the store's mission to serve the surrounding community and Christian education.

Another ministry we have is providing vegetarian meat analog foods for sale from Loma Linda, La Loma, Worthington, Morning Star, and several other companies. We also have several hard to locate items and seasoning for vegetarian and plant based diets.

The Lighthouse also provides a "dent and bent" grocery area called Blessings Unlimited with a variety of economical grocery store items.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

## Mission

- The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department represents the Seventh-day Adventist Church to governments, religious bodies, and other organizations by supporting, protecting, and defending religious freedom and human rights

## Mandate

- Our services include, but are not limited to, helping individuals with Sabbath problems, arranging alternative test days that are not on Sabbath, and labor union issues

- As time permits, we engage in lobbying to promote legislation that would protect the religious beliefs of individuals or oppose legislation which would deny the rights of individuals to follow their beliefs without being discriminated against in the workplace

- Promote Liberty magazine subscriptions to high-level government officials, federal, state, and provincial judges, and prominent social and religious leaders throughout North America

## Milestones

- Worked with conference leadership to organize a 2018 Religious Liberty Rally in Milwaukee.

- Lead a religious liberty art contest held across Lake Union
- Helped coordinate and participated in presentations at the Andrews University, "Jesus and Politics Conference"
- Invited Lake Union Religious Liberty Director to speak in different capacities at Wisconsin camp meeting
- Worked with various issues related to racial and social justice within Wisconsin
- Helped write numerous Sabbath accommodation letters
- Counseled and provided resources related to the COVID-19 vaccine mandates

## Mission

- We are here to serve our students, church members, local community, and the Wisconsin constituents with both physical and spiritual needs. To introduce people to our Lord and Savior, and help them build their relationship with Him

## Mandate

- The Lighthouse Thrift Store is here for employment and training of students
- Witness to people and tell them of Jesus, His love for them, and to pray with them as we have opportunity
- Be available to serve our churches in whatever manner that we can

## Milestones

- Installed a new rubber roof on the three buildings on east side of the Lighthouse. We had over 50 leaks on the sales floor alone
- Moved walk-in freezer and refrigeration units from conference office to The Lighthouse to better serve our community and customers
- Added the full line of Loma Linda canned goods, Worthington, and Morning Star frozen food lines
- Added a kitchen/meeting room for customers and church members to use free of charge for small meetings or groups

- Added six full service RV sites with sewer, water, and 20/30/50 amp plugs, to be a service to conference and school visitors
- Added a Drive in Movie Theater where we show Christian movies for our church and community complete with a snack bar
- Added an annual Blessing of The Bikes event
- Started holding summer outdoor church, serving our local church where we have seen summer attendance grow from 25 to 100 members
- In 2021 The Lighthouse began management of the camp meeting food and book store, as well as the Snack Shack







**Rosalie Rasmussen**  
*Wisconsin Academy  
Principal  
(Since 2019)*

## Wisconsin Academy

**Wisconsin Academy is God's school** and exists to equip young people to go out into the world and share the Good News of God's never-ending love and His saving power for all.

Each student comes to us with a different life story, and our prayer is that they are able to find Jesus' love exemplified in staff and fellow students.

Not only is this a high school where students earn a diploma, it is a place where students form life-long friendships and discover the unique mission God has for them.

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men - men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall." Education, p. 57



**Patricia Antoine-Norton**  
*Women's Ministries  
Coordinator  
(Since 2018)*

## Women's Ministries

**Wisconsin Women's Ministries hosts** annual retreat getaways for ladies of all ages, ethnicity, and backgrounds to worship, relax, learn, and grow closer to God and each other. These getaways allow women to take a break from their busy lives, gain a clearer perspective of God's will for them, and focus their priorities as Christians. We review the ladies feedback on each retreat, and use that information to guide us in planning future retreats.

Because of COVID-19, and restrictions on traveling and assembling together, we had to make some major adjustments for our 2021 and 2022 retreats. Thankfully we were still able to have retreat presentations available either via Zoom, DVD or USB drive. The guest speaker's messages were a huge blessing, and very timely for our current circumstances.

The women's ministries committee and I continue to pray for God to guide and direct in the plans for nurturing and spiritually uplifting the ladies of Wisconsin and surrounding states, so we can be ready for when Jesus comes.

## Mission

- Developing leaders today who will walk with Jesus into Eternity

## Mandate

- Provide opportunities and encourage each student to develop a relationship with Jesus
- Experiencing service here at school, in the community and in longer term mission opportunities
- Encourage the development of leadership potential in each student
- Distributing monthly and weekly event reminders and announcements

## Milestones

- Started daily student-led chapels and Sabbath Schools
- Raised funds for Kosrae mission school
- Adopted Union lay mission school in Myanmar
- Distributed literature in several church communities.
- Completed CERT training & assisted disaster relief in Iowa
- Offered in-person education through COVID-19.
- Offered emphases in Science, Math, Music and Social Studies. This year adding emphases in Language Arts and Bible.

- Began gardening class - repurposing and activating green houses
- Industrial Arts constructed sheds and bus lean-to
- Updated computers in labs and staff offices
- Installed 100+ security cameras
- Installed new equipment to live stream
- Installed LED lights all around campus
- Installed Mass Notification/Class Bell system
- Purchased additional bus, van and a plow truck
- Installed key-less locks

## Mission

- To model Jesus Christ through meaningful relationships and effective ministries

## Mandate

- Provide one or two retreat opportunities per year for women to deepen their faith, grow and build networks among other Adventist women
- Assist local church women's ministries leaders providing counsel, support, and resource materials

## Milestones

- October 2019 retreat: Journey to the Sanctuary with Tawny Sportsman
- February 2020 retreat: Take Heart, There's Hope with Tawny Sportsman
- September 2020 retreat: Destination Heaven with Dr. Hyveth Williams
- April 2021 retreat: Overcoming Obstacles and Triumphant in Christ with Dr. Sandra Doran
- October 2021 retreat: God is More Than Enough with Tamra Horst
- April 2022 retreat: Jesus For Times Like these with Dr. Elizabeth Talbot

- Each year during camp meeting we share materials and ideas to enrich Women's Ministries on the local church level





# Support Staff



**LaQuita Anderson**  
Associate Treasurer



**Sandy Berg**  
Administrative  
Assistant for Education;  
Membership



**Laurella Case**  
Administrative  
Assistant for  
Communication



**Caryn Erb**  
Camp Meeting;  
Conference Clerk



**Kim Haas**  
Administrative  
Assistant for President,  
Ministerial & Treasury



**Noemi Miranda**  
Administrative  
Assistant for Hispanic  
Ministries



**Allison Payne**  
Administrative  
Assistant for Youth



**John Ramsey**  
Associate Treasurer;  
Auditing; Insurance





**Jim Schwark**  
Grounds Maintenance



**Teresa Schaetzka**  
Assistant Treasurer



**Becky Ziesmer**  
Administrative  
Assistant for Camp  
Wakonda



**Elgin Ziesmer**  
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