

Reverend David Carlson – The 2003 Wilkerson –Droege Award Recipient...

Rev. David Carlson is an ordained (1966) ELCA Lutheran pastor (M.Div.). Following five years of parish ministry in Milwaukee, he has served 34 years as chaplain, or Director of Pastoral Services in urban and rural parishes, Lutheran Social Services, chaplaincy in corrections, mental health and general hospitals, and at Fairview-University Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN. He holds a Masters degree in counseling and psychology (STM). With his commitment to mental health work, he has been a leader in creating numerous programs to integrate spirituality into mental health services in public, private and religious institutions.

He created the first Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) based Minister of Health Education Program in 1984, which has involved more than 100 congregations in whole person healing ministry development. As a supervisor/Educator in Clinical Pastoral Education, David brings energy and vision to teaching in small group processes and in personal spiritual direction, seeking to walk with others in their journey toward wholeness and healing.

Reverend Carlson has provided leadership to the Health Ministries Association which empowers a collaborative management approach. He has served in numerous positions including: Interim Executive Director, Executive Co-Director, Advisory Board Member, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. He was co-convenor of the Task Force to formulate a national membership organization, Health Ministries Association from 1987-1999. Rev. Carlson authored the original Constitution/By-Laws and assisted with the legal incorporation of HMA. He authored the first newsletter for HMA in August 1989, *Health Ministry Connections*.

Serving as a member of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center's Advisory Committee beginning in 1987, Reverend Carlson has held numerous positions with that organization. In 1996, he was a member/author of the "Basic Parish Nurse Curriculum Project". In addition, he has authored numerous books, publications and programs.

In 2009, Reverend Carlson retired from Fairview-University Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN. He is currently serving as the ACPE Supervisor at Mercy and Unity Hospitals in Minnesota since August, 2009.

Reverend Carlson is a visionary leader who has lived the mission and invested his talent to bring the concepts of the faith/health movement to reality. HMA has been blessed by the wisdom and leadership of this founding member through the years.