

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING RESOURCE GUIDE

**“A MAN OF UNDERSTANDING
WILL ATTAIN WISE COUNSEL.”
PROVERBS 1:5**

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

REVISED—OCTOBER 2019

COUNSELING CARE FOR SHEPHERDS...
AND OTHER CHURCH WORKERS
& FAMILIES
IN THE NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

VISION STATEMENT:

To sustain the health and vitality of God's kingdom workers in the North Wisconsin District through prevention, intervention and remedial care.

OVERALL STRUCTURE:

It is the goal of the North Wisconsin District to offer help in the following ways to sustain healthy kingdom workers—

1. Preventive Care—Educational and wellness services.
2. Interventive Care—To assess and refer troubled workers who are facing professional or personal issues that impact their work performance as kingdom servants.
3. Remedial Care—Counseling and treatment of those workers (and families). This may occur through the District Counselor, or through referral to an outside counselor/facility.

DISTRICT COUNSELOR:

Pastor Dan Kohn is a Semi-retired LCMS pastor. Before becoming a pastor, Dan was a licensed mental health and addictions counselor for over 30+ years. He is the author of four books, one of which is *The Resilient Pastor*. Dan is also a Synodically-trained reconciler.

Dan has been married for 47 years, has two adult children, and five grandchildren.

ROLE AS THE DISTRICT COUNSELOR:

Pastor Kohn will assist the District in the following ways:

1. Researching and disseminating resource information to pastors and congregations in the areas of wellness and counseling care.

2. Providing direct counseling and referral services for troubled workers (and their families).
3. Creating written resources and training events to assist workers to sustain health and proactively address work-related and personal issues.
4. Being the primary point of contact with issues related to counseling questions and concerns; and assistance with referrals to outside counselors, or other resources. [See Christian Counseling Agencies at the back of this Guide.]
5. Being a liaison between the District and outside service providers in the coordination and facilitation of services.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Contacts with Pastor Kohn related to counseling care will be kept confidential. The limited exceptions to this will be the following:

1. In those areas where synod has a “zero tolerance” policy (i.e. sexual misconduct, etc).
2. Where there is State “mandatory reporting” requirements (i.e. child or elder abuse & neglect).
3. Where there is a risk of physical harm to self, or others.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor Kohn can be reached in the following confidential ways:

+Email— revkohn@gmail.com

+Cell phone—(715) 610-2400

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING **BACKGROUND & GUIDE**

The following facilities identify themselves as “Christian” or “biblical” in their counseling. Such facilities are rare, as most counseling is done from a secular perspective, where the Bible is not a primary reference in their counseling.

It is encouraged that you make personal contact with the facility you choose to learn more details in regard to the specific areas their counselor(s) are trained to address. Each counselor has strengths and limitations.

The majority of agencies are licensed to provide mental health counseling. Addiction counseling is less available. Those counselors who accept insurance payment for counseling have to be licensed in mental health and/or addictions in order to legitimately counsel in those areas, and to receive reimbursement for their counseling.

Most counseling centers have a webpage. This is a good place to start in your investigation of an individual center, or counselor.

It is also important to check to see if a particular facility and therapist is covered under Concordia Health Plan, or other insurance coverage you may be under. Under Concordia Health/Cigna Health, the first six sessions are covered for church workers, or family members.

There may be other individual counselors or agencies that would also come under the above headings of “Christian” or “biblical” that are not listed here. If you are aware of these, please contact Pastor Dan Kohn so he can update this Christian Resource Guide—(715) 610-2400 or revkohn@gmail.com

As mentioned earlier, the vast majority of counseling agencies are secular, and do not use the Bible as a primary text for the work they do with clients. This reinforces the reason for the development of this Resource Directory, which is meant to be a guide to you, as a beginning of the process to access quality Christian care giving.

Pastor Dan Kohn is also available for counseling. He is the assigned District Counselor. He has 30+ years of previous experience as a licensed mental health and addictions counselor. He is also available to assist with general counseling questions, and to help you find a counselor in your area. He can be reached at the e-mail and telephone number above.

It is the goal of the District Office to assist called and commissioned workers in gaining the help they may need to remain productive, faithful servants of Christ.

ADVICE FROM A SEASONED COUNSELOR...

One of the most frequent challenges I have seen pastors encounter is their response to the plea—"Help!"

There is a natural tendency...and an expectation to immediately be that helper. Let me suggest the three "steps-back" approach to such a request—

1. First "back step"—Answering the question—Am I trained to respond as a professional caregiver for this person?
2. Second "back step"—If the answer to #1 is "No", then what boundaries will I be crossing if I say "Yes"?
3. Who is more qualified to assist this needy person?

As a part of a valuable "reality check" in regard to offering counseling, keep in mind that a professional counselor is required to have a Masters Degree in Counseling, or related field, and 3000 hours of clinical experience before being qualified, by state standards, to counsel. Interpretation: One or two seminary classes on pastoral care does not qualify any pastor to counsel (which involves--assessment, diagnosis and treatment of complex human problems).

A boundary that is crossed when an under-trained pastor agrees to counsel someone is one found in professional ethics—Offering services when unqualified to do so. Said differently, this implies that a pastor is presenting himself as fully qualified to do what is not reasonably feasible--tied to lack of training and experience.

Boundary two that is being crossed is to not refer the potential client to someone who has the credentials to be an effective caregiver. One of the first considerations for an untrained pastor, upon getting a request for help, is to go into "referral mode." This implies that the pastor is familiar with counseling resources at his disposal. Personal visits with outside counselors can be very beneficial. Also, as mentioned previously, check counseling agency websites.

With all this said, it needs to be emphasized that a pastor appreciates his skills and abilities when it comes to spiritual guidance. Most pastors are better trained at the application of Scripture than the average, outside counselor. What can be very beneficial to the person in therapy is to also be guided by the pastor in deeper spiritual matters. This can also be reviewed when a pastor meets with an outside counselor.

When a client in counseling is willing, it is valuable for him/her to sign a "Release of Confidential Information" form to allow for an exchange of communication between the trained counselor and pastor. Now a pastor is in his element and a more confident, trained caregiver to his parishioner. The pastor also has the chance to advise the outside counselor on the application of Scripture.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING AGENCIES

The following listing is intended as an active, changeable Resource Guide. The inclusion of any given agency is not intended as a full endorsement of the credibility of that facility, or its staff. The priority was placed on making available a list of counseling agencies that use a “Christian,” or “biblical” approach to counseling. Those areas of the District that do not have an agency listed are those where no Christian/biblical counselor was located to date.

Feedback regarding any agency is appreciated to maintain this Resource Directory as a reliable guide for professional church workers.

Green Bay:

Christian Counseling & Wellness

2150 Memorial Drive, Ste 213

(920) 498-3383

www.ccmcounseling.com

Lutheran Counseling & Family Services

210 South Oneida Street [Redeemer Lutheran Church]

(888) 867-4840

www.lcfswi.org

Eau Claire:

Clinic for Christian Counseling LLC

505 S. Dewey Street, Ste 208

(877) 855-0936 / (715) 832-1678

www.cccwi.org

Gateway Counseling

3459 London Rd

(715) 552-1735

Marshfield:

Advocate Psychological Services

1905 South Central Ave, Ste. D

(715) 544-4435 / (715) 572-0343

www.advocatepsychservices.com

Center for Human Development

243 S. Central Avenue

(800) 236-3792

www.chdevelopment.org

Charis Counseling LLC

101 W. McMillan Street
(715) 848-0525
www.chariscounselingwi.com

Oshkosh:

Lutheran Counseling & Family Services
420 N. Sawyer Street (Zion Lutheran)
(888) 867-4840
www.lcfs.org

Rice Lake:**Clinic for Christian Counseling, LLC**

12 West Marshall Street, Ste 101
(877) 855-0936
www.cccwi.org

Shawano:**Lutheran Counseling & Family Services**

324 South Andrews Street [St. James Lutheran]
(888) 876-4840
www.lcfswi.org

Stevens Point:**Advocate Psychological Services**

3233A Business Park Drive #304
(715) 544-4435
www.advocatepsychservices.com

Tomahawk:

Center for Human Development
1509 N. 4th Street Unit # 2
(800) 236-3792
www.chdevelopment.org

Wausau:**Center for Human Development**

631 Forest Street
(800) 236-3792 / (715) 842-0944
www.chdevelopment.org

Charis Counseling LLC
2620 W Stewart Ave # 310
(715) 848-0525
www.chariscounselingwi.com

Wisconsin Rapids:

Advocate Psychological Services
241 7th Avenue South
800) 681-2374
www.advocatepsychservices.com

[It is evident that there are areas of the District where no Christian counselors are located. If you know of such counselors, please contact Pastor Kohn.]

Additional Christian Counseling Resources:

American Association of Christian Counselors
www.aacc.net [Find A Counselor Resource]

FindChristianCounselor.com

Grace Place Lutheran Wellness Ministries
www.graceplacewellness.org

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Center
(480) 588-8837

For additional information on counseling issues and referrals; or if you know of other Christian counselors, contact:

Pastor Dan Kohn (715) 610-2400 / revkohn@gmail.com