

## Covenant of Relationship

### **Bellin Health System – The Wisconsin Annual Conference**

The United Methodist Church has a tradition, dating from the earliest days of the Christian movement through the Wesleyan revival, of being particularly responsive to the needs of the sick, the vulnerable, and those disenfranchised by secular society. The denomination's connectional structure provides a natural and effective framework for responding, both through preaching and through socially conscious programs, the needs of all God's children. Indeed, John Wesley's own ministry and dictum that "the world is my parish" challenges the contemporary church to develop ministries that enable persons, all of whom are of infinite worth and are embraced by God's love, to experience the abundant life offered by Christ. For this to occur, the spiritual, mental and physical well-being of persons must be addressed.

Although legally and administratively distinct, Bellin Health System and the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church share a common religious heritage and strive through cooperative programs to set the stage so that God's love and healing power can be fully released in the lives of those to whom we jointly and separately minister. To be most effective in ministry, however, requires that our relationship, expressed as a covenant, be dynamic and responsive to the continually emerging needs of the people served. Hence, although the covenant is understood to be a testimony to an ongoing relationship, the particular programs and emphases through which it finds expression will be evolving continuously and are to be reviewed biennially. This statement, together with an outline of these programs and mutual responsibilities, constitutes the Covenant of Relationship between Bellin Health System and the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

**The Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church agrees to:**

1. Interpret and promote the work of Bellin Health System throughout the Conference;
2. Communicate and interpret requirements and changes in *The Book of Discipline* that affect Bellin's programs and ministry;
3. Facilitate collaboration and cooperative programs among Conference-related health and welfare agencies;
4. Appoint, in consultation with Bellin leadership, an endorsed United Methodist chaplain to direct the pastoral ministry program for Bellin Health System;
5. Make available the resources of the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation and consider requests for conference-wide fundraising appeals;
6. Instruct the Nicolet District Superintendent to engage in regular, face-to-face conversations with the Director of Pastoral Care and, at least annually, with Bellin's president and CEO;
7. Instruct pastors appointed to communities within Bellin's service area to encourage an active relationship between their congregation(s) and Bellin;
8. Challenge Bellin Health System to maintain the highest standards of care and to participate in health ministries to all persons, including the disadvantaged and marginalized members of society; and
9. Actively support and give financial consideration to mission initiatives of Bellin Health System.

**Bellin Health System, Inc., agrees to:**

1. Maintain its tradition of offering compassionate, accessible, quality health care services;
2. Give due consideration to the investment policies of The United Methodist Church as established by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church;
3. In decision making, give due consideration to The United Methodist Social Principles and *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church;
4. Provide annual narrative and audited financial reports for the Annual Conference;
5. Maintain communication with the Wisconsin Annual Conference through the Episcopal Office, Nicolet District Superintendent, and the assigned *liaison* person;
6. Assist the Annual Conference in understanding emerging health care needs, with particular attention to access and availability of care;
7. Cooperate with the Annual Conference and local congregations in developing health and welfare ministries;
8. Maintain quality pastoral care and ethics programs; and
9. Biennially identify and review specific programs and strategies for promoting an active partnership between Bellin Health System and The United Methodist Church.

## Legal and Financial Matters

Neither the Bellin Health System, Inc., nor the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church, hereby accepts any legal or financial responsibility for the operations or affairs of the other and neither hereby purports, by virtue of this relationship agreement, either to control or to direct the other in its operations or affairs.

This Covenant of Relationship will be subject to quadrennial renewal by action of the Board of Trustees of Bellin Health System, Inc. and by the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, 2000.

BELLIN HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.

By: *Allen J. Hill*  
Chairman of the Board  
*George J. ...*  
President and CEO

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE OF  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By: *Sharon Zimmerman Rader*  
Bishop  
*Kevin R. Myers*  
Conference Secretary