

DENVER W. BITNER

RESUME

RESIDENCE: 3523 Rockview Road
Rockford, Illinois 61107

BORN: July 30, 1947
Greeneville, Tennessee

MARRIED: Pamela Baker
August 31, 1968

CHILDREN: Elizabeth, Sara, David

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Member, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

EDUCATION: University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Dubuque, Iowa – Doctor of Ministry 1992

Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa
Master of Divinity, Certification for Ministry 1979

Hamma School of Theology, Springfield, Ohio
Master of Theological Studies 1972

Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio
BA, Sociology 1970

Rockford East High School
Rockford, Illinois 1965

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

February 1, 2009 - present
President and Chief Executive Officer
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS, Des Plaines, Illinois

2007 – 2009
Consultant for Urban and Multicultural Ministries
NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD, ELCA, Rockford, Illinois

1986 – 2009
Senior Pastor
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rockford, Illinois

1983 – 1986
Co-Pastor
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rockford, Illinois

1979 – 1983

Associate Pastor

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rockford, Illinois

1972 – 1979

Director of Youth Ministries

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rockford, Illinois

1969 -1971

Residential Counselor

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY, Springfield, Ohio

1967 – 1968

Volunteer

VISTA CORPS, Baltimore, Maryland

FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

2004: Formed Zion Outreach Ministries serving at risk children and providing human services to those in need.

1997-2003: Served on the Board of Church and Society, ELCA (Board Chair 2000-2003), adopting social statements and overseeing the work of the division with national and global social services ministries.

1997 & 2001: Led mission trips to Laos, met with national leaders to begin the formation of the Laotian Lutheran Church.

1997: Served as delegate to the President's Summit forming America's Promise, an initiative to provide tutors and mentors, which resulted in the formation of the Support our Students organization for student support in Rockford.

1996: Formed Patriots Gateway Community Center, a not-for-profit organization serving the Zion neighborhood with enriching social, educational, and recreational activities through the collaboration of over 30 agencies.

1995-2009: Supervised and trained seminary interns, work groups, and other development groups.

1989: Formed the Rockford Interfaith Council, an organization promoting the dialogue and support of the diverse religious community of Rockford including Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Baha'i and others. Regularly chaired the annual Thanksgiving Service as a community event.

1982: Founded Zion Development Corporation, a not-for-profit corporation affiliated with Zion Lutheran Church in the areas of employment, economic development, and housing renewal and rehabilitation (an organization which has provided over \$22 million

of development activity in the neighborhood in the last 25 years and won the Rockford Register Star Excelsior award for excellence as a social service agency).

1980: Developed outreach with Laotian refugees in Rockford including welcoming them into the membership of the church and sponsoring the first Laotian ordained to the Lutheran ministry (this started the journey of Zion becoming a multicultural congregation welcoming not only these refugees but African-American and Hispanic members as well).

1980-1985: Chaired the Mayor's Task Force on Hunger coordinating the community's response to the major recession which hit Rockford in the early 1980s.

1972: Worked with youth finding them always to be a source of excitement and hope for the future of the church.

1967: Served a year as a Vista volunteer in the urban area of Baltimore working to develop the skills of community organization and deepen my awareness of urban issues.

HONORS

Excalibur Award, Rockford, Illinois 2009

ACTIVITIES

Member, Chicago Alliance for Collaborative Effort (CACE), 2009 –
Illinois Human Services Commission, 2009 –
Member, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Board of Directors, 2003-2007
Member and Past President, Epilepsy Foundation
of Northern Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska - 2006
Trustee, William Howard Trust – 1986

December 3, 2009