

# Wisbey Resigns Union Presidency, Remains Health Systems Chair

by Charlotte Pederson McClure



On March 3, 1994, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee appointed Ron M. Wisbey to serve as liaison for health care administration of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The committee then accepted Wisbey's resignation as president of the Columbia Union. Following is a portion of his speech to the committee on that day

## Wisbey Speech

“As you know, over the past few years, often the most urgent and significant issues of the moment have been in this health-care ministry. I have invested much time and study to discharge my responsibilities toward the health-care work. The hospitals likewise have invested much in equipping me to discharge those responsibilities.

“After much thought and prayer, I frankly concluded that I can't continue to diffuse my ministry as in the past. It's not fair to the church nor the health-care organizations, and it's not fair to the other important components of our ministry union-

wide. I am asking you to afford me the opportunity to focus my work as the first liaison for health care administration in this union.

“This move will permit me to repay the heavy investment the health-care corporations have made in working closely with this union to discharge the Adventist health-care mission. It will avoid the necessity to educate and train someone new to fill the role of liaison to link the public work of the hospitals to the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“As you know, this is a complex task with many legal, business, and denominational issues on a daily basis. To do this right, and to do right by the hospitals that have generously placed much faith and effort in my leadership, it seems best that I focus on that role full time.

“In this new role, I will be able to coordinate the work of the hospitals regarding mission and numerous other church-related matters. I will work closely with the corporate memberships of the two regions and attempt to bring a closer working relationship toward mission with the institutions and the church.”

## Liaison for Health Care Administration

Following is a description, submitted to the Columbia Union Executive Committee, of Wisbey's new post:

Since the demise of AHS/NEMA

and its corporate leadership, the union president has carried the responsibilities of serving as board chairman of the two regional boards and “flagship” hospital boards as well.

With the heavy commitment to union activities, along with North American Division and General Conference boards and other corporate church commitments, it appears that we must question the efficiency of this heavy assignment and suggest that the time has come to divide the assignment so that one person can focus on leading the church's direct mission, including conference, congregational, education, and evangelistic issues. Another person would focus on health-care governance.

Union officers would continue—as schedules permit—to be members of corporate and hospital boards, thus the organizational interests would continue to be protected and advanced.

## Position Description

In addition, the new assignment would allow the board chairman to truly fulfill the role of chairman. Both regions and individual boards need the chairman to attend state-level health-care association meetings and represent the institutions at community and other professional forums. Currently, there is not time in the union president's schedule for such activity on a regular and helpful basis. There is need in each region for assistance with fund-raising and development within the community. The new assignment would allow the chairman to become well enough acquainted within the community so that he could be of value to the board nominating committee process.

There is a distinct need within

the church for someone to represent health-care to the employees and constituencies of the church. There would be room within this assignment for this and other activities that would enhance the Adventist health-care mission and understandings to our own Adventist people.

*Concept:* Adventist health-care in the Columbia Union Conference has become a major institutional component. These organizations are composed of two regional corporations and five acute care hospitals, plus numerous related corporations.

*Accountability:* The liaison for health care administration would be accountable to:

- Union conference president
- Union executive committee;

the committee appoints and holds person responsible for overseeing governance of Seventh-day Adventist health-care institutions within union territory. (Article VIII, Section 3: *Departmental Appointments.*)

- Two regional health-care membership boards.

*Funding:* The position of liaison for health care administration would be funded by the two Columbia Union Conference health-care corporations.

## Columbia Union Exec. Committee Resolutions

Following is the wording of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee action.

*Whereas,* the health-care ministry of the union is an important ministry of the union; and

*Whereas,* the health care ministry of the union would be enhanced by the creation of an office of Liaison for Health Care Administration of the union;

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved,* that pursuant to Article 6, Section 2, paragraph b of the union by-laws, the office of "Liaison for Health Care Administration of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists" be and hereby is created; and further

*Voted,* that the Liaison for Health Care Administration shall be appointed by the executive committee after consultation with the health care leadership of the union; and further

*Voted,* that the Liaison for Health Care Administration shall function as the principal representative of the union responsible for the administration of the health-care ministry of the union. The Liaison for

Health Care shall:

(1) work in furtherance of the health-care ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, principally among the hospitals and other health-care organizations that are affiliated with the church and that are located within the territory served by the union, and

(2) chair the corporation boards and perform such other duties as pertain to the position; and further

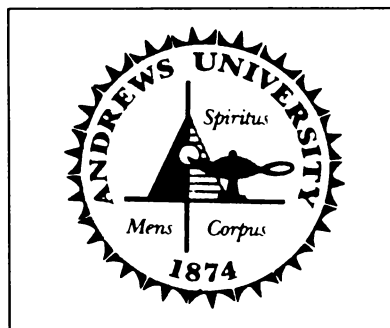
*Voted,* that Ron M. Wisbey be and hereby is appointed to the position of Liaison for Health Care Administration.

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## How Andreasen Was Invited To Andrews' Presidency

by Vinaya K. Sathyasheelappa



Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Walla Walla College, becomes president of Andrews University, in Berrien Springs, Michigan, July 1, 1994. Adam Rose, a senior pre-law/economics major and president of the Andrews University Student Association, served on the university's presidential search committee. He is sure that "Andreasen will do a fantastic job."

"This was the first time the university selected a president under a set policy or procedure," says Stella

Greig, professor of English and another search committee member. According to Greig, the policy, developed by the provost's offices, was the most open procedure yet for selecting a president.

When W. Richard Leshner, current president of Andrews University, announced his retirement, a search committee was immediately formed, including: Robert Kloosterhuis (chair), vice-president of the General Conference and chair of the board; Greig; Patricia Mutch, director of the Institute of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency; Duane McBride, chair of the behavioral sciences department; and Robert Johnston, chair of the New Testament department at the SDA Theological Seminary.

The alumni of Andrews were represented by Loren Hamel, a physician at the Andrews University Medical Center, and Margaret