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## A Vision for a Shared Ministry That Leads Back Home

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## A Vision for a Shared Ministry That Leads Back Home

His enthusiasm could be heard over the phone; it was however tempered by the reality of the hard work that has been done and that lay ahead. Mark Wahlers, vice president of Student Services here at Concordia University, is one person who is in the middle of the action when it comes to the idea of a "shared ministry."

You might be asking, "what shared ministry?" That would be the ministry that is being developed between St. Michael's Lutheran Church and Concordia University. In an October 2 interview, Wahlers openly commented about the "shared ministry's" development and hopes.

St. Michael's and Concordia share a neighborhood as well as a "commonality of mission." St. Michael's has been without a pastor for more than five years. Along with the opportunity to install a new pastor, came the opportunity to outreach and join energy with Concordia.

Wahlers estimates that the campus pastor will not be installed before January 1997. Once installed, the vision of the shared ministry will be, "to combine the people and resources of parish and campus for maximal spiritual nurture of all members of St. Michael's and creative outreach with the gospel to all students, faculty, and staff as well as to the larger Concordia neighborhood."

This is not a new concept for either organization. Wahlers relates that St. Michael's Lutheran Church began in the 1950s in the chapel at what was then Concordia College. In the early '60s, the church built its

own sanctuary and moved there. The two have been neighbors ever since then. Now the neighbors are reaching out to one another and to the community.

*Watson White*