



Dear ,

We are so glad you have come to join our team and we are eager to get to know you! Please know that we are praying for you and your spouse that God will supply your every need through this process of getting settled.

- **“Welcome to the Conference Binder”** is our way of saying we are glad you’re here and we want to get acquainted! We hope it will help you get to know us a bit better and possibly see someone you would like to connect with in a closer way. Feel free to call, text, or email (whatever they’ve said is the best way for them) the spouses in this binder. We hope the pictures and bios here will help speed the process for you getting acquainted with the other wonderful Kansas-Nebraska pastoral couples! You’ve come to a friendly group! 😊
- **KS-NE Ministerial Spouses Association Facebook Page** is where we post information on upcoming events, resources, and how we stay in touch with each other by posting what we’re doing, things we’re concerned about, etc. We have a great fellowship of supportive pastors’ spouses! Just log in to Facebook and find us at KS-NE Ministerial Spouses Association. When you request to join, we will quickly add you to the group!
- There are **four opportunities to meet during the year**. We recognize it may not be possible for all spouses to attend all four events, but you are certainly welcome to.
- **January Ministers Meetings** are held in **Topeka, Kansas**. The meetings are for the pastors, but on one of the evenings when the pastors go out for supper with the others in their designated area groups, the spouses and children are all invited to my house for supper and to spend the evening. We always have a great time!
- The second time **we meet is in March or April in Grand Island, Nebraska for our Ministerial Spouse Retreat**. This is a weekend designed especially for YOU! It is free for you and a time to be pampered! It is a great time of fun, fellowship and encouragement where we have a speaker and lots of time and opportunities to get acquainted with the other Ministerial Spouses. The schedule is relaxed, the food is great, and there’s a pool, hot tub, and workout room for those who desire it. We have a “Round Table Discussion” on Sabbath afternoon where we discuss ministry questions that have been anonymously submitted. It sometimes helps to know that we are not alone in facing ministries’ challenges! Saturday nights we play games, do crafts, watch a movie, sit in the hot tub, etc. There’s a variety of choices. It’s just a time to relax and be refreshed! The dress code for the weekend is casual...there are no “fashion police” here! 😊 Nursing babies are allowed at this retreat. Ladies are paired two to a room. Those wishing for a private room are free to pay the price difference to have that.

- If your spouse is required to work at **Camp Meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska** (which is around the **end of May to the first part of June**) then this would be a third opportunity for you to meet other pastoral families.
- **August** is the month when all of our pastoral couples are expected to attend our **Ministers' Retreat**. This is the fourth opportunity to fellowship. There is a special speaker for the meetings and you will be given a free day just for fun sometime during the retreat. It's a great time to get acquainted as everyone is supposed to be there if at all possible.

Ministry can be challenging, and finding someone to safely talk to about it can be even more of a challenge! We want to help relieve your stress in positive, safe ways! The Kansas-Nebraska Conference has made arrangements with the **Kettering Ministry Care Services** to allow pastors, spouses, and immediate family members to call [800-767-8837](tel:800-767-8837), and **confidentially talk to professional counselors** Mon.-Fri. 1-4 p.m. Mon.-Thurs. 7-10 p.m. Central Time Zone.

Ministry Care Line operates every weekday, except major holidays. **There is no cost to the employee or family member for either the call or the Ministry Care Line (MCL) consultant's time.** All names are kept confidential. **The Conference is notified for billing purposes only.** The Ministry Care Line is staffed by trained Christian mental health workers. Nestor Bruno, Masters in Theology and Psychology, River Plate University, Argentina, Mental Health Certifications from M.R.I., Palo Alto, California and University of Wales with Newbold College, United Kingdom, coordinates the Ministry Care Line and its consultants.

This benefit gives pastors and family members confidential access to trained professionals to provide support and consultation when dealing with the problems and challenges of Christian leadership. MCL consultants are trained in crisis intervention, counseling, and life coaching. MCL also has access to national directories for referral to counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and other professionals throughout North America in case face-to-face counseling is needed.

Pastors who provide counseling also have access to the MCL consultants to discuss difficult cases, perhaps avoiding mistakes that might adversely affect the counselee and conference since clergy are not immune from malpractice suits.

Why Do Employees Call?

- Tension with a colleague
- Marital/Parenting Issues
- Frustration with job
- Consult re: Pastoral Counseling
- Fear, Anxiety, Depression
- Referral for local counseling
- Goal: Provide safe place to deal with issues before they explode.

Ministry Care Line consultants can also provide referrals to local area Christian mental health-care providers. Using a national database, a consultant can match the caller with a nearby service provider having the relevant expertise needed.

Broken Arrow Ranch – Free Retreat Cabin

A special cabin located at Broken Arrow Ranch has been provided free of cost for pastors and their families to retreat from the stresses of their duties.

Amenities include: All bed linens & towels / Fully equipped kitchen / Queen bed on main floor / Double bed and Daybed upstairs. (You would need to bring your own food.)

To Reserve: Call Youth Director, Tim Floyd at: 785.478.4726.

Because we know that you will do so much to bless your local congregation and to support your ministry spouse, we just want to say a big THANK YOU! There is no way we can really repay you for all that you do, but please know you are in our thoughts and prayers as you allow God to use you where you are to bless your family, your spouse, your congregation and your local community!

WELCOME TO THE KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONFERENCE TEAM! WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Sue Carlson

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Women's, Children's & Family Ministries Director

Ministerial Spouse Sponsor

Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists