



PRESIDENT/CEO - Rev. R. J. Ross, MSA

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R.J. Ross, MSA, working with a group of three colleagues, founded the first Samaritan Center in 1972. Since then, he has directed the development of the Samaritan Ministry. He has provided consultation in the establishment of 80 Samaritan Counseling Centers. Rev. Ross is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) with degrees from Oklahoma State University, McCormick Theological Seminary, and University of Notre Dame. He is particularly interested in the integration of religion and psychology, building upon solid business practices. As President of the Samaritan Institute, his primary areas of responsibility are board development, program leadership, and finance including fund raising.



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT - William S. Wright, EdD

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William S. Wright, EdD, has been with the Samaritan Institute staff since 1996. He is a graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University, Colorado State College, and University of Oregon. Dr. Wright has been a tenured full professor, an administrator of higher education programs, and involved in several research and development projects. He has also directed clinical and out patient services in a hospital setting. Dr. Wright's interests are wide ranging from the integration of theology and psychology to the effects of government policy on mental health care. His primary areas of responsibility include provider relations, liaison to Centers, leadership consultation, and facilitator of the National Council.



VICE PRESIDENT - Rev. Nancy Gieseler Devor, PhD

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Nancy Gieseler Devor, PhD joined the Institute in 2005 as the Vice President responsible for the Clergy and Congregation Care Program supported by the Lilly Endowment. A graduate of Macalester College, Yale Divinity School, and Boston University Graduate School, Dr. Devor is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She has served parishes in Michigan and Maine. Dr. Devor is a licensed psychologist and formerly Director of Training and Clinical Director in Samaritan Centers located in Farmington Hills, MI and Manchester, NH. Dr. Devor was the Executive Director of the Daniels Institute of Boston University, where she organized an APA accredited pre-doctoral internship for psychologists and served on the University faculty.



VICE PRESIDENT - Rev. Paul A. Bretz, DMin

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Paul A. Bretz, DMin, joined the Institute staff in 2007 after serving both congregations and counseling centers in Illinois, Indiana, and Colorado. A graduate of Wheaton College, McCormick Theological Seminary, University of Chicago: School of Social Service Administration, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Regis University, he is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Dr. Bretz is a Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and member of the NASW Academy of Certified Social Workers. His primary areas of responsibility include the coordination of the Institute accreditation process, the Samaritan Annual Conference, consultation and leadership development.



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR – Laurie A. Killmer, BS

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Laurie Killmer, Office Administrator, joined the Samaritan Institute staff in May 2007. She maintains the Institute’s databases and the Center Resource Library. Laurie also provides staff assistance on projects such as the Samaritan Annual Conference, the National Awards Dinner, as well as the research and publishing of the Annual Statistical Report. She has been designated as the Institute “go-to” person for technology expansion and electronic medical records. Laurie received her BS in Social Studies Education from Indiana University in Bloomington.



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Eileen L. Gornall, BA

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Eileen Gornall, Administrative Assistant, first began working with the Samaritan Institute in 1991. She has a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of New Mexico. Her husband is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America, currently serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. Her primary areas of responsibility are bookkeeping, providing administrative assistance for the Institute’s Clergy and Congregation Care (CCC) program, and human resources.



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – Ashley M. Daoust, BA

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Ashley Daoust, Administrative Assistant, joined the staff of the Samaritan Institute in July, 2010. She works closely with Laurie in areas of technology and publications, and provides assistance with projects including the Samaritan Annual Conference and the National Awards Dinner. She received a bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Mass Communication in 2005 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.