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ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

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Cheryl K. Brandsen earned a BA from Calvin College, a MSW from the University of Michigan, and PhD from Michigan State University. Presently she is Professor of Sociology and Social Work at Calvin College and director of the Social Work program. Her research and practice interests are in gerontology, and specifically, end-of-life care. She is cochair of the Social Work Research Group of the Michigan Partnership for the Advancement of End-of-Life care, a Robert Wood Johnson-funded initiative, and project director for the Hartford Geriatric Enrichment in Social Work Education at Calvin College.

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Diana R. Garland received her BA, MSSW, and PhD degrees all from the University of Louisville. She currently is Chair of the School of Social Work at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Her interests include church social work, family ministry, and child welfare. She serves as Editor of the *Journal of Family Ministry*. She has authored, co-authored, or edited fifteen books, including Sacred Stories of Ordinary Families; Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide; Church Social Work; Precious in His Sight: A Guide to Child Advocacy and Church Agencies: Serving Children and Families in Crisis. In 1996, Dr. Garland received the Jack Otis Whistleblower Award from the National Association of Social Workers to honor her public stance against unethical practices of the administration of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

David R. Hodge, is a Rene Sand doctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis and a retired member AFL-CIO. With an extensive multicultural practice background in the area of spirituality, Mr. Hodge has presented at national conferences, conducted in-service trainings, and is widely published. His scholarly work has appeared in Social Work, Social Work Research, the Journal of Martial and Family Therapy, Families in Society, and forthcoming chapters will appear in the Encyclopedia of Social Measurement and the 10th edition of Social Work: A Profession of Many Faces. To draw attention to his scholarly work in the area of spirituality, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and Washington University have issued national press releases featuring his work.

Crystal Holtrop, obtained her BSW from Dordt College and her MSW from the University of Iowa. Currently, she is a Clinical Supervisor and Marriage and Family Therapist at Catholic Charities, a community-based child welfare agency. As a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Ms. Holtrop has 14 years of experience specializing in marriage and family therapy. She has conducted in-service trainings, facilitated workshops, and participated in the redesign of a two-county social service delivery system.

Douglas L. Koopman earned an AB in mathematics from Hope College (Michigan), a Masters of Theological Studies from Wesley Seminary (Washington, D.C.) and an MA and PhD in Politics from the Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.). Presently he is Professor of Political Science and Interim Director of the Center for Social Research at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Previously, Professor Koopman was the Program Director of the Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics at Calvin College from 1997 to 2002. His research interests are in Congress, American politics generally, and the intersection of religion and American politics. Prior to his academic career, he served on Capitol Hill in several committee, leadership, and personal office staff posts in the U.S. House of Representatives for fifteen years between 1980 and 1995.

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Jill Mikula received a BSW from Calvin College. She is currently a Families First In-Home Therapist for Catholic Social Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her professional experience includes direct practice in family preservation and crisis intervention. Other social work in-

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Mary Anne Poe earned a BA from Vanderbilt University, a MDiv from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and a MSSW from the University of Louisville. Presently she is Associate Professor and Director of the Social Work Program at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. She has served previously as a social worker on church staffs in Minnesota and Kentucky. Her research and practice interests are how to engage congregations in effective and culturally sensitive ministry in the community, what is the role of the church as an advocate for social and economic justice, and what are appropriate relationships among faith-based organizations, congregations, and other social service providers.

Jason Pittman earned a BA and MSW from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, as well as a MDiv from George W. Truett Seminary. He is presently the Coordinator of Urban Ministry in Detroit, Michigan, for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He has social work experience in a variety of areas related to urban ministry and community development and was instrumental in establishing an alcohol and drug treatment center in Waco. Jason's practice and research interests include faith-based drug and alcohol treatment programs, urban Christian ministries, community development, and congregational social work. Baylor's School of Social Work recognized Jason as 2002 Social Work Graduate Student of the Year.

Lawrence E. Ressler received a BSW from Eastern Mennonite College, a MSW from Temple University, and a PhD from Case Western Reserve University. He is currently Academic Dean and Professor of Social Work at Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, New York. His social work practice experience has been in individual, family, and organizational counseling, and mediation. Professional areas of interest include conflict management, research, church/state relationship, and family counseling. He has held leadership roles in the National Association of Social Workers and in social work education at the state level, and as a National Delegate. He served as President of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work for seven years.

Amy L. Sherman earned her PhD at University of Virginia and is currently Senior Fellow at the Welfare Policy Center of the Hudson InAbout the Contributors

stitute, where she directs the Faith in Communities Initiative. She also serves as Urban Ministries Advisor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. She is the author of four books, most recently, *Reinvigorating Faith in Communities* [Hudson Institute, 2002], and nearly 70 published essays. Her work has appeared in a variety of religious and secular publications, including *The Public Interest*, *First Things*, *Books & Culture, The American Enterprise, Philanthropy, Christianity Today*, and *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*. She has written numerous "how-to" manuals for Christian ministry practitioners and is a frequent speaker at training conferences. In 1996, Dr. Sherman was named by Christianity Today as one of the "Top 50 Evangelical Leaders Under Forty."

David A. Sherwood received his BA from Lipscomb University (Nashville, Tennessee), a MSW from Bryn Mawr, and a PhD in Social Work from the University of Texas. He is currently Professor of Social Work at Baylor University. His professional interests include the integration of Christian faith and social work practice, ethics, spirituality and religion, practice with individuals and families, and social work in health care and with the elderly. He has written several articles on ethics and topics related to the integration of Christian faith and social work practice. Dr. Sherwood is a co-editor of *Spirituality and religion in social work practice: Decision cases with teaching notes.* He is a member of the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education and consults with social work programs in Christian colleges and universities. Dr. Sherwood has served on the Board and as President of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work and is Editor of the journal *Social Work & Christianity*.

Ronald J. Sider earned his BA from Waterloo Lutheran University, and his MA, BD and PhD from Yale University. He is Professor of Theology and Culture at Eastern University and the founding president of Evangelicals for Social Action. A widely known evangelical speaker and writer, Sider's publications include twenty-three books (including the influential *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*) and scores of articles. Sider is the publisher of *PRISM* and a contributing editor of *Christianity Today* and *Sojourners*. Recent books include *Just Generosity* (Baker, 1999) and *Churches That Make a Difference*, co-authored with Phil Olson and Heidi Rolland Unruh (Baker, 2002). He and Heidi Unruh are currently working on a book on faith-based social services to be published by Oxford University Press.

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Theological Seminar (Kentucky), and a PhD in social work from Barry University (Florida). Presently she is the Coordinator of Field Education and Assistant Professor of Social Work at Wheelock College (Massachusetts). Previous social work experience has been as consultant to APERFOSA (Spain) around the establishment of an AIDS hospice, and collaboration with services to persons escaping prostitution, and to indigent persons with HIV/AIDS. Her research interests include graduate education for social workers around the issue of HIV/AIDS, spiritual development across the lifespan, and community and organizational collaboration. She is currently serving on the board of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

Scott W. Taylor holds a BS from Indiana State University and will receive a MSW from Baylor University, as well as a MDiv from George W. Truett Theological Seminary in May 2003. His work experience includes six months in India, establishing a program of Clinical Pastoral Education in a hospital setting. His professional and career interests are in international social work, with special emphases on global sustainable development, social justice, and environmental issues. He is currently a Graduate Assistant in the Baylor School of Social Work.

Heidi Rolland Unruh received a BA from Wheaton College, and a MA in Theology and Public Policy from Eastern Baptist Seminary. She is the Associate Director of the Congregations, Communities and Leadership Development Project at Eastern University, and a policy analyst with Evangelicals for Social Action. Her work includes analysis of church-state collaborations, research on faith-based social services†and evangelism, and the development of resources for congregational outreach. Publications include various articles, book chapters, and *Churches That Make a Difference: Reaching Your Community with Good News and Good Works*, co-authored with Ronald Sider and Phil Olson (Baker, 2002). She and Ronald Sider are currently working on a book on faith-based social services to be published by Oxford University Press.

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