



By Dale Killingbeck, Cadillac News

CADILLAC - Ministry in the work place continues to grow.

Rev. Ron Klimp, executive director of Workplace Chaplains of Cadillac, recently announced the merger of his agency with West Michigan Workplace Chaplaincy of Holland.

"The new entity will be known as Workplace Chaplains and will currently be providing on-site chaplaincy services to approximately 4,500 employees at 30 locations," he said.

Klimp said the merger means two members of the Holland group's board of directors will join the Cadillac board and the agency will position itself for greater growth.

"It improves our marketing position downstate," Klimp said. "It's already resulted in a contract with a Plainwell location."

Workplace Chaplains provides client companies with counseling and crisis management services to their employees.

The merger will add two part-time workers to a staff of two full-time and seven part-time chaplains, Klimp said.

Co-founders Dr. Richard Westmaas and Klimp say they are excited by the merger.

"It's very rewarding to see this organization into which you have invested yourself doing so well," Klimp said.

Westmaas, who serves as the chairman of the board of directors for the group, said the merger brings more opportunities.

"We hope that by building on the foundation of the Holland group we can see continued expansion in the mission and outreach of Workplace Chaplains Inc.," he said.

Dave Altena, chairman of the Holland group's board, also believes the merger will result in a greater impact than either group could accomplish on their own.

Klimp said the merger means the group now ministers to employees in a region stretching from Traverse City to Plainwell across West Michigan.