



FROM **WATERLOO LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**

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For Immediate Release

NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

LAUNCHED BY WATERLOO LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

A graduate school of social work, the first to be organized in Canada since 1952, will be launched this year by Waterloo Lutheran University.

Dr. William J. Villaume, the university's president, said the school will help to meet the greatly increased need for professional social workers in Canada.

"There are only eight graduate schools of social work in Canada to meet the need created by the tremendous development of welfare programs," he said. "The problem of finding trained personnel is becoming increasingly acute."

Waterloo Lutheran's new school will be headed by Dean Sheldon Lloyd Rahn, who is coming to the university from his position as executive director of the department of social welfare, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Dean Rahn received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Cornell University in 1939, his bachelor of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in 1947, and a Master of Social Work degree from Wayne University School of Social Work in 1954.

He has served as church pastor, director of social service department for the Detroit Council of Churches, and as associate director of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies in New York City. He is a past president of the Church Conference of Social Work.

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In New York, he was primarily responsible for the community organization and national co-ordination of 14 national denominational boards of social welfare and social action. These national boards have annual budgets of more than \$1,000,000.

Dean Rahn will take over his new duties at Waterloo Lutheran University in March. He is married and has three children. A daughter, Cherry, is a student at Waterloo Lutheran, honoring in French and Spanish.

The new School of Social work probably will limit enrolment since suitable off-campus training posts in social welfare agencies must be secured. The first class may number about 25 or 30.

Entrance requirements call for a general degree in arts. After a two year program, successful candidates will be awarded a Master of Social work degree.

Approval for organization of the new school has been secured from all agencies, including the National Committee of Canadian Schools of Social work, the Council on Social work Education which accredits all social work schools in Canada and the United States, the Canadian and Ontario Associations of Professional Social workers, the Canadian and Ontario Welfare Council, the federal department of health and welfare, and the provincial department of public welfare.

Fred Promoli of Guelph, chairman of the committee on social work education of the Ontario Association of Professional Social workers, welcomed formation of the school with these words:

"The new school at Waterloo Lutheran will be a source of new social workers for the most densely populated and most industrialized and hence most needy area of Canada. At last, the means will be expanded for social work preparation. I invite the full support of all concerned in facilitating the rapid growth of the new Waterloo Lutheran University's School of Social work."

Dr. Villaume said the new graduate program in social work is one of a few planned by Waterloo Lutheran University.

"We aim to be a selective university, carefully choosing related fields of post-graduate study and doing a first-rate job in those areas," he said.

"By choosing social work, we are entering a field that is desperately short of trained personnel. Agencies are having great difficulty in finding trained people, yet the present eight schools of social work are operating with full classes. The need for a new school is urgent.

"Last year, for example, there were about 1,700 vacancies in various Canadian agencies and 200 graduates to fill them."

The university president said he felt Waterloo Lutheran, with its broad program in the humanities, is ideally fitted to enter the field of social work.

He said that the campus is well situated, with dozens of agencies within easy reach, in Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, and many other communities.

Students will spend several months on campus, coupled with several months in agencies under direct supervision of graduate social workers with special training in teaching. They will spend about four months with agencies to every six months on campus.

A planning committee to help in establishing the curriculum will soon be set up. An \$18,000 grant from the Lutheran Church in America's board of college education has aided development of the school.

A special grant of \$11,965 was made available from the welfare grants division of the Department of National Health and Welfare to assist in the organization of the school. The university has been assured of future grants from the division.

Faculty members will be appointed within the next few weeks.