

Ecumenical workshop studies group homes

Bus strike settled, service Monday

By MARGARET MILLER
Ecumenical endeavor set some speed records to put together the "New Life in Old Neighborhoods" workshop that this Saturday will explore the role of churches with regard to neighborhood group homes for the handicapped.

The United Methodist Detroit Conference, the Lutheran Church in America and the Detroit Archdiocese are joining in the event, scheduled 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Divine Child High School in Dearborn.

Two bishops, Thomas J. Gumbleton of the Archdiocese and Edsel A. Ammons of the UMC Detroit Conference, have co-signed a statement urging participation.

And Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Baptists and representatives of Pentecostal churches are among the 150 so far registered.

Robert Perske, United Methodist minister and internationally prominent authority in developmental disabilities and community placement, will speak on the topics "New Life for Old Neighborhoods" and "New Practices and Policies in Churches, and there will be a buffet lunch, reports on local church projects and regional workshop sessions.

"It has been only seven weeks since we first started talking about this project and only five weeks since the three denominations got together on it," said the Rev. Philip Seymour, minister of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Dearborn and workshop chairperson.

"I feel it is an issue whose time has come and it was God's will working through all of us that enabled us to put it together."

"Anytime you can get Lutherans, Methodists and Catholics together in five weeks, it's got to be God's will working."

JOINING in the sponsorship of the workshop are the Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, the metropolitan region of the Michigan Department of Mental Health, and the Michigan Council of Carvans Order of Alhambra.

Participating as planning committee members are Bonnie Chrysler, member of the UMC West District Council on Ministries; Edward Znoski, pastoral ministry to the handicapped for the Archdiocese; the Rev. Erick Johnson,



ROBERT PERSKE

pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Dearborn, and the Rev. John West, assistant pastor of Divine Child Catholic Church, Dearborn.

Others are Carol Park of the Northville Residential Training Center, the Rev. Peter Schweitzer of the Plymouth Center for Human Development, and the Rev. Gary Wheeler, divisional director for services among developmentally disabled for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.

Bishop Walter J. Schoenherr of the Archdiocese and Dr. Walter Brown, metropolitan region director for the DMH, will participate in opening devotions, and Richard Kwiatkowski, director of the UMS East Side Mission, will make one of the presentations in the afternoon.

A \$5 registration fee will cover the lunch and a copy of Perske's book, which has the same name as the workshop. The high school is at 1001 N. Silver Lane, Dearborn.

SEVERAL COMMITTEE members talked about the workshop plans growing out of concerns that surfaced when a group home opened in the Divine Child parish.

In August the matter had come up at a UMC district meeting, and Seymour and Mrs. Chrysler, Dearborn resident and a member of Nardin Park UMC in Farmington Hills, had agreed to work on a workshop to be held in 1982.

Bus strike settled, service Monday

By MIKE SCANLON

A bi-county dial-a-ride bus system shut down since October over a labor dispute is expected to resume full service Monday following ratification of a new contract.

Under the terms of the agreement, most employees are in line for five pay increases totaling 48 percent in the life of the 28-month agreement, which is effective immediately and expires July 31, 1983.

Negotiators for Transit Management of Wayne and Oakland Counties Inc. and Teamsters Local 247 tentatively agreed on terms Friday. Workers ratified the agreement Sunday by a 2-to-1 margin.

THE AGREEMENT covers 105 workers, of whom 76 are bus drivers. Under contract terms, drivers' hourly wages will rise from \$4.05 prior to the agreement to \$5.81.

Existing employees were grandfathered in the agreement. Newly hired employees — the company says it plans to expand its work force by an undetermined number — will receive lesser rates of pay. Current bus drivers will receive \$6.81 an hour at the end of the new agreement; new drivers will receive \$6.40.

Negotiators said the agreement also includes a dental insurance package and changes in medical insurance deductibles.

The contract is the first between the bus system and Teamsters Local 247, which won the right to represent drivers and non-supervisory office staff in a union representation election last July. The walk-out began Oct. 3.

"I THINK it was a satisfactory, mutual agreement," said Ronald Barnes, general manager of the bus system. "It's something that we can live with satisfactorily, and I think it's something that also the union can live with."

"For a first agreement, I don't feel it was that bad," said David Schuler, Local 247 business representative. "It isn't everything we would like to have seen, but like I say, it's a first agreement."

Schuler placed responsibility for the long strike on the shoulders of SEMTA, the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority. SEMTA holds a contract under which the small bus system operates.

"The company, quite honestly, I think did a hell of a job. Their hands were being tied by SEMTA," Schuler said.

Especially vexing, Schuler said, was that before Teamster representation, the workers' contract "was essentially our master agreement."

STRIKES against public transit systems are technically illegal in Michigan, but the strike-bound

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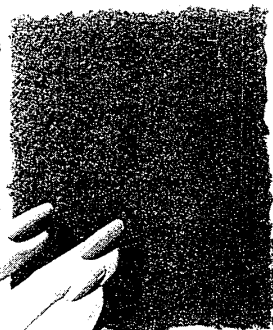
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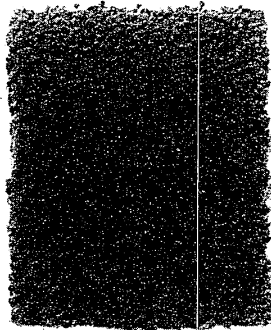
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