

2010 Faithful Trustee Award  
Dr. John Eckrich, M.D.  
Deaconess Parish Nurse Ministries, LLC  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dr. John Eckrich, this year's Faithful Trustee awardee, has been a trustee of Deaconess Parish Nurse Ministries LLC in St. Louis, Missouri for the past three years. He is currently the board's secretary/treasurer.

Dr. Eckrich served as an internist and gastroenterologist in private and group practice in St. Louis for 32 years before making the vocational transition to founding "Grace Place Retreats," which leads wellness retreats for clergy around the United States and abroad. His aim is to keep congregational leaders healthy – physically, emotionally, relationally, fiscally, and spiritually. He also is working in Palestine to provide health services through a church in Bethlehem with a parish nurse as key to his program's model.

Dr. Eckrich is a strong supporter of parish nursing and the difference it can make in the lives of seniors, middle-aged people, young people, young adults, children, and babies. Because of this commitment, he chose to support a parish nurse as central to the health services provided in Bethlehem, some of the only services available in that area of Palestine.

Dr. Eckrich demonstrates an incredible dedication to the mission and vision of Deaconess Parish Nursing. When, because of the current economic situation, Deaconess Parish Nurse Ministries did not have the budget to provide an annual staff retreat for the parish nurses during the Advent season, Dr. Eckrich offered to lead the retreat for the group, providing sorely needed rest and renewal for body, mind, and spirit. In these days of economic uncertainty and stress, having board members who understand and support the vision through their work, wisdom, financial gifts, and, most importantly, prayers, makes all the difference in the world. Dr. Eckrich's commitment embodies the Faithful Trustee Award, and CHHSM is proud to present him with it.