

## Nominees for the NACC Board of Directors presented

In this issue of *Vision*, two nominees for the NACC Board of Directors — Jane Mather and Mary Lou O’Gorman — introduce themselves to members. Elections will be held electronically in September (For more information on the election process, read NACC Board Chair Barbara Brumleve’s column on p. 3.).



Jane Mather, MA, BCC

From an early age I was the person in my family who spent time caring for and praying with the sick and the dying, so chaplaincy has seemed like a totally natural career. After raising six sons and going through a CPE residency,

I returned to school and completed both my undergraduate (Eastern Washington University) and graduate (Gonzaga University) degrees while working fulltime as a chaplain. It was fun being in school at the same time as many of my sons and having their encouragement and support while transitioning from a fulltime career as “Mom” to adding “professional chaplain” to my resume. When I moved from our family home in Spokane, WA, to New York and back again within 10 years, those fine young men were on both ends of the journey to help! (There are two who live in New York and three in Spokane.) The last five years in New York City were spent as director of chaplaincy service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, but in March of this year I felt called back to Spokane to become the director of spiritual care services for Providence Urban Hospitals (Holy Family Hospital and Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children’s Hospital). It is wonderful to be in Catholic healthcare and also share time with family and friends here again. Living in New York City was exciting but nothing there can compare to the thrill of holding my 4-year-old granddaughter as we cheer for her 6-year-old sister on the soccer field.

Working in Catholic healthcare is a new gift for me. The dedication to mission is reminiscent of the work I have loved and shared in NACC. Fifteen years ago, as a newly certified chaplain, I represented our Pacific Northwest Region on advocacy, but since then, my focus has been on the process of certification within NACC. I was fortunate enough to serve as a certification interviewer, an interview team educator (and their lead) and currently as a member of the Certification Commission. Each of these opportunities has enriched my work in ministry as a professional chaplain, a director and a person on a spiritual journey. My desire will always be to support the mission of our organization in whatever ways I can so that others might enjoy the many benefits NACC has provided for my colleagues and me. As a member organization, we are blessed with the opportunity and the responsibility to make NACC as relevant and significant an influence as possible in our present culture, and it is an honor to have been and be a participant in that work.



Mary Lou O’Gorman,  
MDiv, BCC

My relationship with the NACC began as a Vanderbilt Divinity student 26 years ago. I attended my first NACC Conference here in Nashville, TN, in 1984. Little did I know the significant role the NACC would

play in my own future. I became certified the next year after completing a master of divinity and CPE residency at the Nashville VA Medical Center. As I review my tenure in the NACC, I am aware of many changes in my personal and professional life. When I became certified my husband and I were raising three sons, two in high school, and the youngest was 7. Now I have become the grandmother of three granddaughters. I have provided ministry as a board certified chaplain for the past 25 years and now serve as the director of pastoral care and CPE at Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville, where I have been employed since completing my residency. In addition to hospital ministry, I have written and spoken nationally and internationally on issues related to improving end-of-life care, addressing spiritual needs at the end of life, attending to moral distress, developing cultural competence and describing the leadership role of chaplains in today’s healthcare environment.

I have been actively engaged in a variety of NACC activities and initiatives some of which include: Regional Certification (1988-93), the Board of Directors (1998-2000), Strategic Planning (2002-03 and 2006-07), Planning Committee for the EPIC Conference in Toronto (2002-03), co-chair of the task force that drafted the Common Standards for Professional Chaplains (2003-04), Standards Commission (2005-Present), chair of Care Services/Staff Development Task Force (2008-09), liaison to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops/Commission on Certification and Accreditation (2004-Present). These endeavors have served as a vital connection to the NACC, to my member colleagues, and to the broader community within its cognate groups throughout the country. Further, they have been instrumental in my own growth and formation in ministry and in shaping my pastoral and organizational leadership.

These experiences have and continue to contribute to my appreciation of the landscape in which chaplains minister and the challenges they confront, as well as to provide a platform for advocacy. I believe that membership on the Board of Directors offers the opportunity to engage in such advocacy for its members and to address current challenges such as recruitment, the advancement of professional chaplaincy, networking with key stakeholders, and stewardship. My goal is to support the mission and vision of the NACC and to enable it to move into a viable future and to thrive for the chaplains of generations to come.