

To: NACC Members
From: David A. Lichter, Executive Director
Date: July 7, 2011
Re: USCCB decision on the USCCB/CCA

In the June 27, 2011 issue of NACC Now, we included the news of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) decision to close their Commission on Certification and Accreditation (USCCB/CCA) and move their oversight of certification of ecclesial ministries to a Sub-Committee of the USCCB Secretariat of Education in Washington, DC. I also devoted my Executive Director Reflections to this decision.

Over the past week, we received several e-mails and phones calls asking whether the NACC will be losing accreditation with the USCCB and no longer certifying chaplains or supervisors, or is closing and/or moving to Washington DC, and other similar questions.

I hope the following points about the NACC and its relationship to the USCCB and the USCCB/CCA offer further clarity for our members.

- The NACC was founded as an association by the US Bishops in 1965. We do not need accreditation by the USCCB, and remain in strong relationship with the USCCB through our Episcopal Liaison, Archbishop Paul Coakley, and our USCCB Episcopal Advisory Council. We are not closing or moving to Washington, DC.
- The USCCB/CCA was incorporated as a not for profit organization in the state of Missouri in 1983 to both *approve* certification standards and procedures submitted by professional organizations of ecclesial ministers, like the NACC, and *accredit* ministry programs, such as CPE programs.
- The USCCB/CCA first approved the NACC Standards for Certification in 1984. In 1987, the USCCB/CCA also became an accrediting agency, and the USCCB/CCA began to *accredit* ministry formation programs, such as CPE programs. The USCCB/CCA has both *accredited* programs and *approved* standards and procedures for certification.
- The most recent decision of the USCCB was to dissolve the USCCB/CCA and to no longer *accredit* programs, such as ministry formation programs and CPE programs.
- There are 20 CPE programs that are currently *accredited* by the USCCB/CCA. 15 of those programs are also *accredited* by the ACPE. All 20 of those programs are in Catholic settings. The USCCB/CCA accredited-only programs will plan to become accredited by the ACPE. Until that happens, they remain accredited by the USCCB/CCA. They will not lose their accreditation status. This is very important.
- The USCCB will continue to *approve* Standards and Procedures for Certification. Starting in 2012, this will be done by the Sub-Committee of the USCCB Secretariat of Catholic Education.
- The NACC's Standards and Procedures for Certification, approved by the USCCB/CCA, remain approved. The NACC remains in good standing with the USCCB. The NACC continues to certify chaplains to continue the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church.

As we learn more about this process, I will let you know. If you have further questions, please let me know. Thank you for your ministry.