Letter from the Chair

One of the gifts of ministry is discovering one’s own idiosyncrasies and life’s synchronicities. Joan Bumpus, appointed Chair of the NACC Board of Directors in 2004, was called back by her healthcare system in May of 2006 to lead an important redesign of spiritual care service delivery. At the same time, Father Tom Landry was appointed Interim Executive Director to replace Larry Seidl, who returned to ministry closer to home in Colorado.

I was already serving on the Steering Team for the Board Visioning Retreat with Bridget Deegan-Krause and Paul Marceau when the Board chose me as its new chair. Planning and implementing this retreat enabled Tom and the team to quickly bond as partners in leadership and synergistically work together for the health, vitality and viability of our association. Tom and I work creatively, compatibly and enthusiastically with our consultants, John Reid and Maureen Gallagher of The Reid Group, as we lead the Vision & Action Initiative. We invite our members to become actively, compatibly and enthusiastically with our consultants, John Reid and Maureen Gallagher to facilitate the process. This approach is based on knowledge and appreciation for the evolving story of an organization. It is primarily about faith, conversion and healing, and secondarily about organizational development. The methodology is bold and is rooted in discernment of the movement of the spirit and the will of God for an organization at a given time. Twenty-four members, representing a balance of ordained and lay, certified chaplains and CPE supervisors, diverse ministry settings and geographic locations, age and experience, participated in the planning conference calls and two retreats; 47 members participated in the first six focus groups; almost 200 members participated in the web survey. Following another round of focus groups, regional gatherings and web surveys, we will present the draft mission, vision, values, goals and objectives at the Conference in Portland.

Board Activities

2006 was a year of significant transitions for the Board. Two appointed members, Ms. Emily John and Richard Jose Bela, Esq., resigned regretfully from the Board due to pressing personal responsibilities. Sr. Norma Gutierrez, NACC Cert., was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Joan Bumpus’ resignation. Cindy Bridges, NACC Administrative Assistant, joined Kathy Eldridge and Susanne Chawszczewski as a key resource for the Board.

NACC is taking a leadership role in convening stakeholders to participate this October in a process to determine, among other things, benchmarks to indicate the added value of spiritual care to overall healthcare. We propose to raise the status of professional chaplains and chaplaincy, and to translate the “Common Standards” into professional, working standards that can be used by employers and supervisors who are not chaplains. We plan to advocate for professional levels of compensation and establish benchmarks for staffing levels; for the relationship of fully certified, professional chaplains to other spiritual care providers; and for evaluating chaplains and program effectiveness.

The past several years of continuous change and transition, along with the new strategic plan, the Executive Director search process, and our Board self-evaluation last October, both allow and compel us to revitalize governance roles; recruitment; education, development and succession planning; elections and appointments; responsibilities; structures, procedures, and accountabilities. We have asked The Reid Group, who served us so well in the visioning process, to lead this critical and essential effort.

2006 NACC Board Election Process

Five members were nominated and agreed to run for the two open elected-member seats on the board in 2006. The board consists of at least six NACC members; four appointed members; our Episcopal Liaison, appointed by the USCCB; and the executive director, who serves as an ex-officio member.

Statements from each of the five nominees were published in the July/August 2006 edition of Vision. All voting members received a ballot mailing in August containing a copy of the candidates’ profiles and statement of candidacy, as well as a description of the voting methodology. Following the success of instant runoff voting for the previous two elections, we used the process again this year. An added benefit of this system is avoiding the time and costs associated with a second round of
voting. Members indicated their choices by rank-ordering their preferences. Voter participation by the September 22 deadline was 43.5%. Election results, along with statements from the two elected members, were announced in the November/December issue of Vision. Patrick Bolton and Alan Bowman emerged with the majority of votes. They began their three-year term of office on January 1, 2007.

Spiritual Care Collaborative (SCC)
The SCC is an international group of professional organizations collaborating to advance excellence in professional pastoral and spiritual care, counseling, education, and research. The current six partners were the founding organizations, originally known as the Council on Collaboration (CoC.) My article in the October 2006 issue of Vision recaps a brief history of the development of the CoC, which this year approved the articles of incorporation for a limited liability corporation known as the Spiritual Care Collaborative. The Collaborative developed and approved Common Standards for pastoral practice, fostered a mutually valued relationship for disaster response with the American Red Cross, and will sponsor a joint conference in 2009.

We are currently considering the development of a website to articulate the Common Standards and garner support and endorsement by professional organizations, healthcare systems, and other social services and professional groups. Proposals for partnerships are also being considered, as well as developing an extremely comprehensive salary survey with a wealth of advanced features. Speaking with one strong, collective voice, we envision unique and powerful opportunities to advocate for our profession.

Council on Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS Network)
The COMISS Network was founded as the Council on Ministry in Specialized Settings in June of 1979. The purpose of this diverse ministry group (also mentioned in the above-referenced article) is to serve as a network for collaboration and information sharing among its members. Members of the network include professional certifying organizations for chaplains and pastoral counselors; professional accreditation organizations; religious endorsing bodies; professional pastoral care organizations and churches; and organizations that employ chaplains and pastoral counselors. At the Annual Forum in December 2006, the focus was military chaplaincy and disaster response.

The COMISS Network Commission on the Accreditation of Pastoral Care Services (CCAPS), formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Pastoral Services, provides national consultation, evaluation, and accreditation of institutions for their delivery of pastoral care services. COMISS sponsors the annual Pastoral Care Week celebration — October 22-28 this past year.

Karen Pugliese
Chair, NACC Board of Directors

2006 Board of Directors

CHAIR
Karen Pugliese
Chaplain
Central DuPage Hospital
Winfield, IL
karen_pugliese@cdh.org

VICE CHAIR
Bridget Deegan-Krause
Ferndale, MI
krausebd@udmercy.edu

SECRETARY
Paul Marceau
Vice President, Mission Services and Ethics
Trinity Health
Novi, MI
marceau@trinity-health.org

TREASURER
Theresa Vithayathil Edmonson
Chaplain
Providence St. Vincent Medical Center
Portland, OR
theresa.edmonson@providence.org

EPISCOPAL LIAISON
Most Rev. Dale Melczek, DD
Bishop of Gary
Merrillville, IN

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Rev. Thomas G. Landry III
National Association of Catholic Chaplains
Milwaukee, WI
mlandry@nacc.org

Patrick H. Bolton
Director of Pastoral Care
Mercy Medical Center
Daphne, AL
patrickb@sa-mercymedical.org

Sr. Barbara Brumlieve, SSND
CPE Supervisor
Alegent Health Care
Omaha, NE
bbrumilev@alegent.org

Sr. Norma Gutierrez, MCDP
Chaplain
St. Mary Medical Center
Apple Valley, CA
norma.gutierrez@stjoe.org

Sr. Geraldine Hoyler, CSC
Notre Dame, IN
g hoyler@csccsisters.org

Sr. Mary Eileen Wilhelm, RSM
President Emeritus
Mercy Medical
Daphne, AL
smew@sa-mercymedical.org
Interim Executive Director

In a year of transition in my own life and in the life of the NACC, I was pleased to be appointed your Interim Executive Director on April 28, 2006. I began my service officially on June 1. Almost as soon as I arrived, it became clear that key focuses for the remainder of the year would be: the Board of Directors Retreat in Lincolnshire, IL, in July and the subsequent call for a renewed strategic planning process; the opportunity to build upon the strengths of our national staff and to devise a healthy succession plan for the Executive Director; the need to move our national office from the Archbishop Cousins Center after 18 years at that location; and the need to fill the position of Administrative Assistant.

Following the BOD retreat in July, we engaged The Reid Group to facilitate our planning process, the Vision and Action Initiative, whose product-to-date will be shared with our members at the annual conference in Portland, OR, for their feedback and further development. We have received and continue to invite all our members’ input in response to the developing planning documents as they are posted on our NACC website. Among other considerations, this planning process will define the needs we wish to meet in seeking and hiring a new, permanent executive director, a process which will begin after the conference.

After searching our options in the Milwaukee area, we negotiated a lease for new office space in the Airport Atrium. This is a commercial office building directly across the street from General Mitchell International Airport and very convenient to the major highways running through Milwaukee. Our new space provides us with a self-contained office suite and storage that was difficult to find in the Milwaukee market, and it lends itself well to the work done by our national staff.

Staffing

Cindy Bridges, Administrative Assistant, is the newest member of our national staff. Cindy has moved quickly and smoothly into key roles of support to my activities, to various national office projects, and to the Board of Directors and its several committees. However, perhaps her most demanding role has been serving as the key staff resource person in support of the Vision and Action Initiative. This work has brought Cindy into direct contact with literally hundreds of our members as they have made their contribution to this significant planning process.

The rest of our national staff did a phenomenal job of remaining faithful to their normal workload while culling 40 years’ worth of accumulation in our offices and storage areas and packing everything in a planned manner that would bear dividends in the short term when unpacking in our new space and in the long term in years to come when these sorted, archived materials might be needed.

Staffing needs resulting from the current Vision & Action Initiative will be addressed as part of the approval and implementation of this planning process.

Financial Review

The financial review for 2006 by Winter, Kloman, Moter and Repp, S.C. provided us with a very healthy and encouraging view of the year’s financial outcome. While several revenue streams did not perform as we had hoped, there was careful belt-tightening by everyone and judicious use of designated funds for two major additions to this year’s activities: the move to new quarters and the Vision & Action Initiative. We have a healthy portfolio of socially responsible investments, and we recognize that development and fundraising are key challenges we must face with renewed vigor and bold creativity in the months and years ahead. An increase in 2007 membership fees was announced in November of 2006.

Membership

We have continued to witness a slight decline in overall membership, a matter much in the minds of the Vision & Action Planning Group and the Board of Directors as we assess the work that lies ahead of us.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Full Members</th>
<th>Total Members*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 31, 2005</td>
<td>2,328</td>
<td>3,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 31, 2006</td>
<td>2,216</td>
<td>2,998</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Total Members includes Life, Full, Affiliate, Emeritus, Student, Inactive, and Missionary.

Retaining current members and recruiting new ones to NACC are items within the Strategic Plan that carried us into 2006. They will continue to be addressed by the plan being completed as part of the Vision & Action Initiative.

Episcopal Advisory Council

At the November 2006 Bishops’ Meeting in Baltimore, I met with Bishop Dale Melczek, our Episcopal Liaison with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and representatives from 10 of the 14 USCCB Episcopal Regions in the United States Catholic Church. We discussed the growing strength and importance of the NACC Standards for the whole Church. We also discussed the importance of the Common Standards adopted by all founding, participating associations of the Spiritual Care Collaborative. We have made a renewed commitment to engage the bishops in this forum more intentionally and, we hope, more fruitfully.

Collaboration

I am pleased to report that the NACC has either newly engaged or significantly resumed collaborative relationships that will benefit our members both in the short and the long term, including the Spiritual Care Collaborative (SCC). The SCC’s legal existence resulted in part from work before my arrival within its predecessor, the Council on Collaboration, as well as from the
persistent work during the final months of 2006 by representatives of NACC and the other five groups: the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), the American Association for Pastoral Counselors (AAPC), the Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education (CAPPE/ACPEP), and the National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC).

Another important relationship is the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), where the united voice of the SCC positions us more effectively to join JCAHO’s efforts to articulate standards for quality patient care and recognize the role of professional chaplains in healthcare organizations’ plans for patients’ spiritual needs. With the Catholic Health Association (CHA), we have renewed commitments to mutual support in serving our NACC members through joint efforts such as professional development programs for Mission Leaders among CHA members, and joint consultations within healthcare systems, such as the Pastoral Care Task Force of Ascension Health.

Multi-Year Planning for Conferences and Education Programs

We concluded 2006 with an ambitious commitment to a multi-year cycle of planning for annual national conferences and more local education programs which our members have been requesting. We also committed ourselves to an aggressive effort to schedule more “local” and perhaps collaborative education days around the country for the fall of 2007. This effort remains in progress.

Rev. Thomas G. Landry III
Interim Executive Director

National Office Staff

Interim Executive Director
Rev. Thomas G. Landry III

Director of Operations
Kathy Eldridge

Director of Education and Professional Practice
Susanne Chawszczewski, Ph.D.

Administrative Assistant
Cindy Bridges

Administrative Specialist/Membership
Barbara Hempel

Administrative Specialist/Communications/Vision Editor
David Lewellen

Administrative Specialist/Special Projects/IT
Phil Paradowski

Administrative Specialist/Finance
Sue Walker

Administrative Specialist/Certification
Marilyn Warczak

Certification Assistant
Becky Evans
Certification Commission

It has been my privilege to serve on the NACC Certification Commission for the past ten years and as its chair for the last six years. Meeting so many competent new members of the NACC and working with colleagues from across the country has been personally and professionally rewarding. I am grateful to have served during the time of transition and the emergence of new leadership. The NACC is alive and well!

Those who serve on interview teams and as Interview Team Educators, hosts and welcoming committees, and especially Cathy Connolly, who developed and trained so many competent leaders, are a tribute to the profession of chaplaincy. The work of the Commission could not have been accomplished without their tireless and generous service, as well as that of Marilyn Warczak and the national office staff. Rev. Jack Crabb will serve the commission well as its new Chair in 2007, and I know that he can count on the generosity and support of the members of the NACC to continue the work of certification.

During the past year, the Commission certified 76 new chaplains, approved the renewal of certification for 254 members, and welcomed one new supervisory candidate into the process. It has also looked at ways to make CPE more accessible to areas where there are still barriers that make it difficult to access this education. The long-distance learning project is proving successful and hopefully will be a viable alternative for those who need CPE but who cannot leave jobs or homes to receive it. There will be more about this project in the near future.

Thank you for all your generosity and service to the certification process. The Commission is a dedicated group of colleagues who will serve you well, and I know that you will continue to be active participants in the process of certification.

Sr. Anita Lapeyre, RSCJ Chair, Certification Commission

Certification Appeals Panel

During the calendar year 2006, the Certification Appeals Panel received two appeals.

It is important to remember that the Appeals are filed for a violation of procedures in conducting the interview or a violation of NACC Standards for Competency. This process is a check and balance to assure interviewees that the interview teams uphold the NACC procedures for interviews and the competency standards.

Sometimes candidates who have been denied certification file an appeal based on Code of Ethics standards. These are most often grievances and are to be guided by the grievance procedures. The Appeals Panel is grateful for the Certification Commission’s clarification and commitment in establishing an active grievance committee for review of these cases.

The Appeals Panel members did not submit any new proposed changes in 2006.

The Board of Directors appointed Sr. Virginia Yeager, SSJ, to serve a three-year term as an Appeals Panel member. Ms. Linda Bronersky completed her six-year term as Chair. One vacancy remains to be filled.

The leadership within NACC is most grateful for the commitment of the CPE supervisors who serve on the Appeals Panel. The work of the Appeals Panel demonstrates the seriousness with which all involved see the work and process of certification. The group works collaboratively on each appeal and in preparation of annual reports.

The Appeals Panel welcomes your comments and ideas.

Ms. Linda A. Bronersky Chair, Certification Appeals Panel

USCCB/CCA Liaison

As a Special Representative to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation, my primary focus has been to communicate with Sr. Kay Sheskaitis, IHM, Executive Director of the USCCB/CCA, regarding the ongoing revision of the NACC’s Standards. (I serve on the Standards Committee as well.) Sister Kay has met with the committee each of the last two years to outline expectations and to define topics pivotal to the Catholic tradition. Dialogue with Sister Kay has resulted in the incorporation of these areas into the standards: Catholic Identity, Intercultural Diversity and Social Justice.

Last spring, Alan Bowman and I met with Sister Kay to review the committee’s progress, to discuss its efforts to separate standards from process, and to respond to Sister Kay’s questions/concerns. Sister Kay encouraged us to simplify the procedures for certification, particularly that of certification for supervisors. As a result, the committee has adapted the format of the ACPE process in outlining the procedures for certification on all levels.

Once the draft of the standards is complete, the revised documents will be submitted to Sister Kay for review to ensure that those materials are consistent with the values of the Catholic tradition. As Special Representative to the USCCB/CCA, I will continue to engage in dialogue with that body and its representative as the process of completing the standards moves forward.

Mary Lou O’Gorman
Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met three times in 2006 (all via conference call), with the task of reviewing the NACC investment portfolio, the financial reports, and the budget of the organization.

The committee expressed satisfaction with the state of the NACC long-term investments with the Domini 400 Fund.

In following the decision recommended by the committee and approved by the Board in 2004, the NACC decided to conduct audits every three to five years. Every year, however, the NACC will have a review of the financials. The summary of the review of the financial statements is included in this annual report. A copy of the complete review is available for members to read upon contacting the national office.

The committee acknowledges the challenges the 2006 budget faced with the changes in the executive leadership of the NACC, the contracting of the Reid Group to coordinate and facilitate the Board-approved visioning process through the establishment of the Vision and Action Initiative, and the necessity of moving the national offices to a new location in Milwaukee. Despite these unanticipated expenses and without the budgeted revenues, the organization ended the year fiscally sound.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee’s primary responsibilities are to review and monitor the Board of Directors’ composition, functions, communications, education, and performance effectiveness. This includes human resource issues, nominations for Board membership, and the review and updating of the Bylaws when necessary. For 2006, the Governance Committee met six times via conference calls.

At the beginning of 2006, two new members joined the board: elected member Sr. Barbara Brumleve and appointed member Sr. Geraldine Hoyler. Board membership soon became a top priority with the resignation of the chair of the board, Ms. Joan Bumpus. The Governance Committee nominated and unanimously approved elected board member Ms. Karen Pugliese to serve as chair. Also, the committee filled the vacated board position with the nomination, consent, and unanimous approval of Sr. Norma Gutierrez. In addition, the Governance Committee oversaw the election process which resulted in the election of Mr. Alan Bowman and Mr. Patrick Bolton, whose terms start at the beginning of 2007. A search for an additional appointed member with expertise in marketing and development proved unsuccessful.

Much work was accomplished in changing the Bylaws to comply with a Wisconsin statute in regard to the number of board members on committees. The Board approved the submitted changes. A new board self-evaluation tool was introduced to board members that resulted in much feedback and clarification of roles and responsibilities. Communication processes improved and board meetings focused on more action items.

The Governance Committee initiated two task forces in 2006. First, the Awards Committee Task Force rebirthed the process of nominating members for awards. This will be rolled out for NACC participation in 2007. Secondly, the Board Manual Task Force is creating a new orientation and education process for new and established board members. A mentoring program for new board members has helped in the ongoing need for board education so that roles and responsibilities are clear. Both task forces will soon finish their work for board approval.

All the work of the Governance Committee would not be possible without the superb support of administrative assistant Cindy Bridges, who kept us all up to date and on track throughout the year.

Patrick Bolton
Chair, Governance Committee

Members: Mr. Patrick Bolton, Ms. Bridget Deegan-Krause, Ms. Karen Pugliese, Sr. Mary Eileen Wilhelm, Ms. Kathy Eldridge, Ms. Susan Walker
To the Board of Directors
National Association of Catholic Chaplains
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

We have reviewed the accompanying statements of financial position of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (a nonprofit organization) as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Association personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Winter, Kloman, Moter & Repp, S.C.

January 26, 2007
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2006 and 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Office furniture and equipment</td>
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<td>Less accumulated depreciation</td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td>Accrued payroll and payroll taxes</td>
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<td>Deferred revenues</td>
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<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>316,996</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the Years Ended December 31, 2006 and 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>REVENUES</td>
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<td>Membership dues</td>
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<td>Annual appeal</td>
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<td>40th anniversary contributions</td>
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<td>National conference</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions:</td>
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<td>Total revenues</td>
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<td>EXPENSES</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
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<td>Travel and transportation</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Subscriptions, dues, awards, and fees</td>
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<td>Office supplies</td>
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<td>Governance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES (continued)</strong></td>
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<td>Certification:</td>
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<td>Certification commission</td>
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<td>$ 0</td>
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<td>Certification ITEs &amp; site coordinators</td>
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<td>Total operating expenses</td>
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<td>Change in operating net assets</td>
<td>(2,752)</td>
<td>735</td>
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<td>Loss on disposal of assets</td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>(21,396)</td>
<td>735</td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Beginning of period</td>
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<td>18,005</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of period</td>
<td><strong>$ 408,769</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 18,740</strong></td>
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Interview Team Educators

Much of the year-round work of our Interview Team Educators (ITEs) is done behind the scenes, as a voluntary addition to our normal responsibilities of NACC membership. In 2006, 11 ITEs volunteered more than 1,300 hours on behalf of the certification process. Our stated purpose for the Ministry of Certification is “to allow each candidate the best possible opportunity to demonstrate readiness and competence for certification as a Chaplain.”

ITEs train each new chaplain certification interviewer and provide required annual retraining for all veteran interviewers. Last year, a workshop was offered at the National Conference. This expanded the learning method previously limited to teleconference training and produced a number of enthusiastic new interviewers in our ranks.

ITEs review all candidate, interviewer, and ITE evaluations from interview weekends and update the syllabus and accompanying frequently asked questions at least annually to reflect current issues. In 2006, the ITE Manual was completed and will be revised on a regular basis to reflect the latest updates.

Ongoing consultation for all interviewers is offered by ITEs throughout the process. As interviewers read through the candidates’ materials and prepare Presenter’s Report Part I prior to the interview weekend, ITEs help interviewers focus on competencies and relevant questions before that document is given to the candidate.

Interview Team Educators are also on site at all interviews for problem solving, guidance, and encouragement of the interview teams (Site Coordinators provide similar support to the candidates). At that time, the Presenter’s Report Part II is reviewed by the ITE prior to the team reading it to the candidate and forwarding it to the Certification Commission for final decision.

At our annual ITE training session, we meet with the Certification Commission to share concerns and refine our skills. This has resulted in improved support for our interviewers as they strive to allow each candidate the best possible opportunity to demonstrate readiness and competence for certification as a Chaplain.

Jane Mather
Lead ITE

Members: Mrs. Julianne Barber, Ms. Annette Castello, Ms. Cathy Connelly, Ms. Cam Hanemann, Ms. Judith A. Hoelscher, Ms. Charlotte M. Leas, Ms. Michele LeDoux Sakurai, Dr. Sharon Mason, Mrs. Jane Mather, Ms. Judith A. Shemkovitz, Mr. James E. Willsey

Standards Committee

While the newly reconstituted Standards Committee is barely a year and a half old, its members are delighted to report significant progress in accomplishing its major responsibilities. The Common Standards are completely incorporated into the new draft of NACC Standards. Additionally, in a major effort to clarify and simplify the new NACC Standards, innumerable redundancies in the prior text have been removed, along with any duplication within the text of the Common Standards. In a similar organizational strategy, the new NACC Standards contain only the content. The processes are now separated out into procedures. The committee has collaborated with the Certification Commission through our liaison, Rodger Accardi. Likewise, collaboration with the Board of Directors has been facilitated by Paul Marceau and Karen Pugliese. Additionally, the committee has submitted annual updates to the Board, and the committee chair met with the Board in March of 2006 to update and consult the leadership as the Standards approach submission for approval.

In addition to the successes highlighted above, the Standards Committee has encountered and worked through many challenges. The Common Standards, while representing a very significant accomplishment among our cognate groups, do not provide a consistent numbering system. The Standards Committee gained permission from the Spiritual Care Collaborative to provide a consistent organizational structure for the Common Standards to facilitate a better integration with NACC Standards. Additionally, the Committee learned that phone conferencing is not effective for the complex tasks of reviewing, revising and integrating the new standards. The committee learned that this mirrors the experiences of the Common Standards Task Force as well as the Standards Committee of ACPE and APC. Towards this end the National Office supported this important work with face-to-face meetings in February, March and June of 2006. An additional challenge identified is the need for more consistent administrative support, and the Executive Director is in the process of addressing this need. Lastly, once the organizational structure is approved, all of the procedures need to be aligned with references to the new Standards.

As the chair of the Standards Committee, I would like express my gratitude to the membership for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity. I invite you to express your gratitude to the members of this committee, who have worked faithfully and diligently on your behalf to create a new set of Standards and processes to support the work of the organization. The members include: Mary Lou O’Gorman, Mary T. O’Neill, Linda Piotrowski (Secretary), Jane Smith, Thomas Landry (ex-officio), Susanne Chawszczewski (ex-officio and staff liaison), and Board members Paul Marceau and Karen Pugliese.

Alan E. Bowman
Chair, Standards Committee

Members: Mr. Alan E. Bowman, Ms. Mary Lou O’Gorman, Mrs. Linda F. Piotrowski, Dr. Jane W. Smith, Mr. Paul Marceau, Dr. Rodger F. Accardi, Dr. Susanne Chawszczewski
JCAHO Liaison Network

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) is a complex organization whose actions affect spiritual care in hospitals, long term care/assisted living, hospice and home care, ambulatory services, and increasingly in physician offices.

JCAHO’s Liaison Network is an open forum that invites all organizations invested in healthcare into dialogue and education. The Liaison Network meets yearly and encompasses 240 organizations, although generally only about one-fourth of this number attend. I have represented the NACC to the Network since 1999, and the 2006 meeting was significant; for the first time, chaplaincy was strongly represented by the leadership of both NACC and APC. Tom Landry, Jo Schrader, and Sue Wintz were all present and involved in dialogue with JCAHO administration. The importance of this dialogue is evidenced in part through Joint Commission Resources’ Providing Culturally and Linguistically Competent Health Care. Spiritual care is addressed in this book through the eyes of professional chaplains. Raising the visibility of the profession is important; JCAHO is continuing to redefine itself in light of changes in healthcare, and as a discipline, spiritual care is being challenged.

In 2004, JCAHO revised its standards to focus on safety. The impact on spiritual/pastoral care is evidenced by JCAHO’s shift from demonstration to accommodation language: “Elements of Performance for RI.2.10: 1. The hospital’s policies and practices address the rights of patients to treatment, care, and services within its capability and mission and in compliance with law and regulation; 2. Each patient has a right to have his or her cultural, psychosocial, spiritual, and personal values, beliefs, and preferences respected; … 4. the hospital accommodates the right to pastoral care and other spiritual services for patients.” (2004 CAMH Refreshed Core, RI-9, bold added)

JCAHO’s definition of spiritual assessment can be found at www.jointcommission.org under Standards, then FAQs. Spiritual care is still within the purview of JCAHO, but with greater emphasis on safety; hospitals may have less funding for disciplines not perceived as directly responsible for safety.

Having professional chaplains at JCAHO’s Liaison meetings continues to be extremely important; JCAHO is presently launching a Standards Improvement Initiative described as “part of a continuous effort to eliminate non-essential standards and to ensure that the remaining standards are understandable and relevant to the care setting to which they apply.” (This Month at the Joint Commission, Feb. 2007). This initiative provides chaplains an opportunity to more strongly advocate at the Liaison Network for the spiritual rights of patients.

Michele LeDoux Sakurai
Special Representative, JCAHO

Red Cross Spiritual Care Response Team

On August 27, 2006, Chaplain Joseph Bozzelli (NACC) and six other Spiritual Care Response Team chaplains were deployed to Lexington, KY after a Delta/COMAIR jet crashed upon takeoff.

Since 1999, NACC and our members have been a vital part of the national Spiritual Care Response Team (SRT) in collaboration with American Red Cross. Designed to respond within four hours after an airline disaster for family support, this team has provided unprecedented support to families and survivors of many national tragedies in the past 10 years.

Our SRT response has included over 17 aviation incidents, including the massive response following 9/11. In 2005, we mustered an unprecedented response to the devastating loss of life after Hurricane Katrina. Five of our professional chaplaincy partners have worked with us in this important ministry, including: APC (Association of Professional Chaplains), NAJC (National Association of Jewish Chaplains), ACPE (Association of Clinical Pastoral Education), AAPC (American Association of Pastoral Counselors) and IOPC (International Conference of Police Chaplains).

On December 4, 2006, leaders from these six organizations came together in Washington, DC, at the National Office of the American Red Cross for an official signing ceremony of memoranda of understanding on the 10th anniversary of the Aviation Family Assistance Act of 1996. Fr. Tom Landry signed on behalf of NACC, with NACC SRT Steering Committee members Marjorie Ackerman and Tim Serban.

The memoranda are a major advancement and recognition of shared training and response history, and foundation for future preparedness and response. Originally, preparation was for facilitating appropriate spiritual care after air disasters, with the federal lead agency, the National Transportation Safety Board, and affected airline(s). Following 9/11 the concept and role was expanded to include other transportation events, mass casualties, and terrorism events, by government request.

These working documents commit the partners to shared training and collaboration for future critical disaster response that may include mass fatalities as well as other overwhelming catastrophes not only in major metropolitan areas, but also in underserved regions of the country.

ARC recognizes the importance of spiritual care professionals as valued partners, and affirms the collaboration with board certified chaplains serving as managers on the Spiritual Care Response Team. When appropriate, it facilitates deployment to other disasters that overwhelm the local capacity for response.

We are deeply grateful for all who have served through the past 10 years and for those who will be trained.

Tim Serban,
Special Representative, American Red Cross SRT
The Pastoral Care Week Committee met in Alexandria, VA, on Dec. 2 with representatives from APC, CAPPE, NACC and COMISS. We reviewed sales data from both 2005 and 2006 and discussed new products, such as a blank note card with the logo on the front, which could be used for thank-yous, invitations, etc. Sales of all products remain strong.

There was a strong positive response to leaving the date off the materials, as we share the week with so many other disciplines, and to offering materials that say both Spiritual Care and Pastoral Care. We will again offer both titles in 2007.

The new logo was presented and will be checked for copyright appropriateness. This year's theme is Healing Faith. We discussed whether it would be possible to offer materials in Spanish in 2008. Members will take this back to their associations.

The website will be completed and ready for use on May 1. Anyone using it is welcome to offer suggestions for new products or needs. We also welcome the stories of how your group spent Pastoral Care Week. We value the input of our members and welcome any thoughts you have on how we might celebrate each other and our God-given gifts.

Products that were left over will be at the conference for general dispensing. Each committee member will be available to their association so as to have personal feedback and accept ideas to bring back to the committee for future planning.

MaryBeth Cooper
Representative to the COMISS Pastoral Care Week Committee

Pastoral Care Week

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MaryBeth Cooper
Representative to the COMISS Pastoral Care Week Committee.

NCHPEG/GROW

The ninth annual NCHPEG/GROW Conference was held in Bethesda, MD, in February 2006. I attended the conference, whose focus was risk assessment.

The NACC as an organization elected to join NCHPEG/GROW (National Coalition for Health Care Professional Education in Genetics/Genetic Resources on the Web) in order to help our membership keep attuned to the spiritual/ethical aspects of genetic issues. The APC recently joined for similar purposes. My APC colleague Vincent Guss and I achieved a milestone in 2004 when we moderated a morning-long session on the spiritual/ethical aspects of genetics. The speakers were highly effective and communicated well with the reps of all the organizations present. This helped defuse some negative perceptions of spiritual/religious groups like ourselves.

Dr. Francis Collins, a director of the Human Genome Project, and Mr. Joseph McInerney, the Executive Director of NCHPEG, expressed great interest in a follow-up conference on the spiritual/ethical aspects of genetics for 2008. Dr. Collins is a truly competent professional scientist whose openness to and appreciation of religion and spirituality is truly evident. If this conference becomes a reality, our mutual membership in NCHPEG/GROW will have borne much fruit.

The articles I’ve written in Vision on past conferences have been posted also on the NCHPEG/GROW Website under NCHPEG in the News. In fact, for 2006, my article was their only listing. Directly and indirectly, this gives APC and NACC greater exposure to a wider public.

Stem-cell research tends to dominate headlines, but it’s important to remember that it is only a small part of the whole picture. Genetic counseling, for example, and the ethical issues it raises are equally important for chaplains in their everyday ministry. So is the importance of family histories, a neglected but increasing resource in our interaction with staff, patients and their families. Attendance at NCHPEG/GROW conferences helps all of us keep focus on the total picture. Questions about risk, the promise of pharmacogenomics, the ethical issues in gene therapy, and the socio-economic implications of genetics/genomics—all need our attention.

Visit NCHPEG/GROW’s website, www.nchpeg.org, frequently for updates and resources. It’s difficult to keep up with developments in genetics/genomics. Daily we hear of new advances (and setbacks) in the media. To keep perspective and yet to keep up to date asks a lot of us as chaplains, but our efforts will pay off, I trust, in more effective and fruitful ministry.

Rev. Richard M. Leilaert
Special Representative to NCHPEG

NCHPEG/GROW
The National Interfaith Coalition took a leadership role in the community of Southwest Missouri in organizing, “Partners in Disaster Response and Recovery,” a disaster preparedness and response symposium. This was done in conjunction with many local agencies.

The objectives for the effort were to: identify the importance of a coordinated response to a community disaster; recognize how community and government agencies cooperate and collaborate by experiencing a ‘mock’ disaster; identify volunteer opportunities in disaster response and recovery; recognize the need for continuing professional involvement; and evaluate one’s own strengths, limitations and roles.

In December, Caesar Giolito, Carolyn Giolito, Rev. Chuck Marvin and C. Rosemary Marmouget addressed the COMISS gathering to present their long-term visions for the future of chaplaincy and ways of collaboration, cooperation and association of the two organizations.

Nationally, NIC is active with Families USA, a Washington-based healthcare advocacy organization, in efforts to insure the increasing numbers of people without health insurance (estimated 47 million and rising), to insure more children under the Child Health Insurance Program, which is not reaching sufficient numbers, and to provide quality healthcare to the poor and disabled. With the forthcoming surge to improve our healthcare system through the presidential election season, NIC will extend its efforts to include equity for the mentally ill and also to provide spiritual care, working with the pastoral care organizations that wish to join the effort.

Internationally, NIC, through the efforts of Caesar A. Giolito, NIC’s Executive Director, consults on a continuing basis with the Ambassador of Liberia to build a supportive constituency in the United States to improve the quality of life for Liberians. (The Republic of Liberia was formed by freedmen and slaves from the United States.) NIC stepped into 2007 with several projects on the horizon while looking at a possible restructuring and new focuses.

NIC wishes to thank the NACC for its support over the years and invites each member to submit suggestions for projects, educational opportunities, advocacy or research.

C. Rosemary Marmouget
Special Representative to NIC

PlainViews Advisory Board

PlainViews is an e-newsletter for chaplains and other pastoral care providers featuring concise articles of interest and relevance to those serving as pastoral caregivers. PlainViews also provides a forum for ongoing dialogue and publishes on topics related to professionalism, spirituality, advocacy and pastoral education. Since its inception four years ago, PlainViews has grown to include a subscriber base of over 7,800. These loyal readers have enjoyed lively and timely dialogue on subjects vital to their professional practice.

In response to subscriber feedback, PlainViews includes a CaseConference feature, a Book Review section and a search engine with links to current pastoral issues. The Ethics Walk section — an ongoing dialogue around topics of ethical concern — has also proven popular.

As the NACC Certified member of PlainViews editorial board (as well as a regular reader and contributor) I offer this short report in hopes that the NACC will encourage its members to make use of PlainViews as a supplement to and extension of the ongoing professional education and conversation offered by Vision.

Jane Mather, NACC Cert.
Special Representative, PlainViews Advisory Board

Editorial Advisory Panel

Vision’s Editorial Advisory Panel enjoyed its second full year of successful operation in 2006. We had one face-to-face-meeting at the conference in Columbus in March, and met by telephone conference call four or five weeks prior to the copy deadline for almost every issue. Panel members also gave valuable feedback by e-mail on several matters that were too time-sensitive to wait for meetings.

Our monthly Research Update feature owes a great debt to panel member Paul Buche, who scours pastoral-care and medical journals for authors of interesting research who might be willing to contribute to Vision. Many notable names in the field appeared in our pages in 2006.

The five other members of the panel in 2006 — Linda Piotrowski, Karen Pugliese, Michelle Lemiesz, Michele LeDoux Sakurai, and Rev. Freddy Washington — all contributed at least one bylined article to Vision, and suggested the names of many other members who proved willing to make contributions to the newsletter. Articles about prison chaplains, assisted suicide, and a “cancer coach” began as suggestions from the panel, as well as the January 2007 theme issue about long-term care and the February 2007 feature on chaplaincy in New Orleans after the hurricane.

David Lewellen
Vision editor

Members: Mr. Paul Buche; Ms. Michele LeDoux Sakurai; Ms. Michelle Lemiesz; Mrs. Linda Piotrowski; Ms. Karen Pugliese; Rev. Freddy Washington; Rev. Tom Landry