What does NACC do?

- Partners with diverse organizations that share a commitment to advancing and strengthening professional spiritual care ministry.
- Serves and certifies those who oversee and provide pastoral and spiritual care in a variety of settings.
- Ministers in the name of the Catholic church as a national not-for-profit association.

NACC

Founded in 1965 by the U.S. Bishops, it is the official Catholic body for Catholic professional ministers seeking board certification as chaplains to serve in health care, hospice, long-term care and rehabilitation facilities, as well as in correctional institutions and other specialized ministry settings.

More than 2200 members trained and certified to serve people of diverse faiths, cultures, and identities with 55 percent lay women and men, 24 percent religious women, 17 percent priests, 5 percent permanent deacons and religious brothers.

Members include: chaplains, CPE supervisors, directors of spiritual care, mission leaders, interdisciplinary professionals, diocesan and pastoral care ministry leaders, pastoral care services volunteers – all those who view their profession as continuing the healing ministry.

Mission:

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains advocates for the profession of spiritual care and educates, certifies, and supports chaplains, clinical pastoral educators, and all members who continue the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church.

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...continuing the healing ministry

Your Partner in the Chaplaincy Profession
Certification:

- Certifies for professional chaplaincy: Catholic lay men and women, priests, religious sisters/brothers, and permanent deacons.

- Co-developed and remains committed to the Common Standards for Professional Chaplaincy and the Common Code of Ethics for Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, Pastoral Educators and Students in partnership with other professional chaplaincy organizations, including the Association of Professional Chaplains, Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care, and the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

- Secured approval for the Certification Standards and Procedures by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Subcommittee for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministry and Service.

Professional Education & Networking:

- Sponsors a variety of webinars, local/regional education events, as well as an annual National Conference for ongoing professional development.

- Offers a diversity of networking calls and resources for specialized care settings, including: palliative care and hospice, long-term care, directors of pastoral care departments, and chaplaincy research.

- Provides valuable resources for leading practices in spiritual and pastoral care services.

Advocacy – in partnership with:

- Other professional chaplaincy organizations to position chaplaincy as integral and vital to quality, effective and holistic care, and to promote research in spiritual care.

- Catholic Health Association Pastoral Care Advisory Committee to advance spiritual care.

- The Catholic Bishops to promote and strengthen the pastoral care ministry of all who continue the healing ministry in the name of the Church.

We invite you to:

- Consider this professional ministry of compassionate care.
- Become a board certified chaplain.
- Join NACC members to strengthen the spiritual care profession.
- Partner with us and other organizations to advocate for the profession.
- Support the NACC Mission.