NACC’s 50th Jubilee year of 2015 was a grace for the organization and a blessing for our members and staff as we lived our Jubilee theme, “Honoring the Gift.” Wonderful preparation went into the Jubilee year by the many who served on the Jubilee Task Force.

2015 marked the middle year of implementing NACC’s 2012-2017 Strategic Plan so our organizational highlights will follow those plan goals.

**Our Goal I is to educate and support association members for the future of chaplaincy, with initial focus on Objective A, Provide formation and resources for chaplains to be effective ministers and leaders, especially in emerging settings and health care systems (both Catholic and other) across the continuum of care.**

- Our NACC 2015 webinars and 2015 national conference were again guided by this goal and objective.
  - Our webinar topics included spiritual screening and assessment; weighing spiritual care and other priorities; a dialogue with a chief executive; mental illness; ethics; trends in chaplaincy; as well as the spiritual topic of healing.
  - Our 2015 National Conference included topics such as pastoral care in a high-tech world; chart spiritual care notes; non-traditional grief support; supervising staff and volunteers; research; team well-being; change and transition; EMRs and quality; and multidisciplinary team work.
  - The national conference in Arlington drew more than 400 participants; 350 participated in 12 local events marking NACC’s 50th Jubilee; and over 650 lines accessed our ten webinars.

- We also continue to provide network calls on ministry areas including service settings such as palliative care and hospice, long-term care, correctional; one-person departments; pastoral care directors; and outpatient settings; as well as other affinity groups such as deacons; retired/emeritus; 45 and under; African members; and Hispanic or Latino members.

- The NACC also continues to partner on the CHA Pastoral Care Advisory Committee (PCAC) and in its November 2015, the PCAC identified staff support, chaplain development, and patient services as the areas to concentrate its attention.

**Goal II is to increase awareness of the value of professional chaplaincy among key constituencies, with initial focus on Objective A, Develop materials and programs to communicate the value of professional chaplaincy.**

- The major project for this year was linked to NACC’s 50th Jubilee, as members contributed stories of their ministry that were included in each NACC Now, then further edited and collated into a book, *Chaplain Encounters*. This book is available in PDF form on the NACC website, and will be distributed in other ways as well.

- NACC also developed a new logo and a new website, as well new brochures and portable banners as part of its material development.

- Goal II objectives B and C are concerned with professional research on chaplaincy.
  - Our Research Task Force became the Research Advisory Panel, in order to create more permanent direction and education around research.
  - NACC member, Catarina Mako, was appointed the NACC representative on the newly formed oversight team of our cognate partners, headed by Drs. George Fitchett and Wendy Cadge, to implement the Transforming Chaplaincy project, which involves two grants totaling $4.5 million from the John Templeton Foundation. The grants seek to better equip healthcare chaplains to use research to guide, evaluate and advocate for the spiritual care they provide.
  - Research-related workshops were again part of the NACC 2015 National Conference.
  - Our ultimate goal remains that our members become confident in reading and integrating research findings into the profession of chaplaincy.
Goal III is to enhance advocacy efforts with strategic partners, with a primary focus on continue dialogue with other key professional organizations integral to advancing the profession of chaplaincy.

- First of all, ACPE, APC, and NACC leaders have four task forces examining: 1. Consistency in teaching to and assessing the common standards; 2. The parallel processes for certification of ACPE supervisors and board-certified chaplains; 3. The demographic trends for future clinical pastoral educators and board-certified chaplains; and 4. The increased competition among CPE and chaplain certification groups. These are very important topics, and it is vital we discuss these together.

- In a second collaborative initiative, five of the six cognate groups (ACPE, APC, CASC, NAJC, and NACC) who implemented the Common Standards for Professional Chaplains and the Common Code of Ethics are revising these two foundational documents. The sixth original association, American Association of Pastoral Counsellors, affirmed and supported the work we will do, but chose not to participate since its pastoral counselor members do not use these standards.

- NACC, ACPE, NAJC, and APC are collaborating, as mentioned in Goal II, with George Fitchett, PhD, and Wendy Cadge, PhD, on a four-year project to advance research literacy among us healthcare chaplains.

- The Joint Research Council, initiated by APC, is a collaborative effort to transform chaplaincy in ways related to research. It seeks to enhance communication around research; advocate for research efforts and literacy; and provide a central place for information about opportunities for chaplain-relevant research. This council is really a global initiative, as it includes the major chaplaincy associations of North America, Europe, and Australia. Along with our cognate associations, participants include the National Association of Veterans Affairs Chaplains, Spiritual Care Australia, Scottish Association of Chaplains in Healthcare, and Healthcare Chaplaincy Network. Katherine (Kate) Piderman, PhD, BCC, is our NACC representative on the council.

Goal IV is to advance NACC as a mission-driven, financially stable and resilient association with initial focus on continue to assess and adjust our business model, governance, staffing, administrative and financial processes and resources as needed to carry out our mission.

- Addressing this goal remains in the forefront of each NACC Board meeting. Diverse scenarios for the future continue to be examined, as the profile of the NACC continues to change.

- In 2015, 137 new members joined the NACC. They included 54 lay women, 33 lay men, 27 priests, nine sisters, eight deacons, and six were of other faiths. Overall, the total was more than in 2014 (132). Our membership profile is now 54.6% lay (39.5% women, 15.1% men), 23.2% sisters, 18% priests, 3.6% brothers and deacons, and .6% other faiths, with 67% board certified.

- The NACC ended 2015 in sound financial condition. While the net assets of $49,467.37 were far less than in 2014 ($189,265.44), it was still a good financial year. Over the past six years, the NACC was blessed to have had net surplus of over $100,000 each year due to good budgeting, stewardship, revenue and healthy markets. Even the $932,848 net revenue is healthy, with the two main factors being sound budgeting and stewardship. Sound financial stewardship kept operational expenses ($50,132.72) under budget.

- We exceeded most budgeted revenue goals, which included again the tremendous generosity of our members to the Annual Member Campaign, which far exceeded the budgeted goal ($56,109.41 against the $52,000 goal).

- The most disconcerting revenue line against budget was membership, as membership revenue was $28,123 under budget. We adjusted our 2016 revenue assumptions in light of the 2015 membership revenue.

- 2015 was not a good year for NACC investments, as the weak market results in $17,426.04 unrealized capital losses, which are reflected in the Investment income revenue line of the Financial Report.

- Overall we are grateful for the year ending well financially. However, the Goal IV Team is working hard to examine future scenarios for NACC, and has set clear objectives for 2016 to clarify future options for NACC.

- We know we cannot do business as usual for many more years, due to our current pace of membership decline.

We remain so deeply grateful to all of you, our NACC members. You make the NACC the invaluable resource it is to one another through volunteer leadership, networking calls, providing for one another opportunities to grow spiritually, personally, and professionally. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I am blessed to serve with you.

Gratefully,

David A. Lichter
NACC Executive Director