

National Association of Catholic Chaplains  
Business Meeting ~ April 30, 2017



Snapshots from 2016

If one word could characterize 2016, it would be **collaboration**. The NACC partnered with many organizations to advance the chaplaincy profession and strengthen the pastoral care ministry of the Church. I will again use the NACC's 2012-2017 Strategic Plan for the structure of these snapshots.

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 healthcare systems (both Catholic and other) across the continuum of care.*

- Our 2016 webinars and national conference were again guided by this goal and objective.
  - Webinars: along with introducing in January 2016 the Pope's Year of Mercy, our webinar topics included research, continuous quality improvement, outpatient settings, employee resilience, metrics for spiritual care interventions, the business of health care, ethics issues, and the ritual ministry. More than **900 phone lines** were used, nearly one-third more than in 2015.
  - 2016 National Conference: drew nearly **450** participants and provided topics aligned with Goal I, including research, outpatient settings, chaplaincy taxonomy, interdisciplinary teamwork, preparing volunteers, ethical issues, palliative care, and others.
  - Also nearly **230** members participated in nine local events.
- During 2016, we also continued to provide professional development through networking calls, with topics including service settings (e.g. palliative care and hospice, long-term care, correctional, one-person departments, pastoral care directors, outpatient settings) as well as other affinity groups such as deacons, retired/emeritus, 45 and under, African members, and Hispanic/Latino members.
- The NACC also continues to partner on the CHA Pastoral Care Advisory Committee to address issues such as staff support, chaplain development, and patient services.

**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.*

- Early in 2016 we promoted our 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee book, *Chaplain Encounters*, comprised of our members' stories.
- We also began in 2016 to collaborate with our cognate partners to revise the 2001 *White Paper on Professional Chaplaincy* and provide it in a different format. This is an important effort to re-articulate what chaplaincy is today, as well as to provide an update on the many evidence-based research studies on the chaplaincy profession.
- Since promoting research on chaplaincy is also an objective of Goal II, we made sure there again were research-related workshops at our NACC 2016 National Conference in Chicago, and we are jointly funding with the cognate groups the development of an e-learning module on research literacy.
  - Also, Dr. Lavera Crawley provided an excellent webinar on the topic, *How to Speed Read a Research Article: A Beginner's Guide to Research Literacy*, which was very well received and is now being used by some CPE programs.

**Goal III** is *to enhance advocacy efforts with strategic partners.* The NACC has been in multifaceted collaboration with its cognate partners throughout 2016.

- During the first half of 2016, NACC completed with ACPE and APC the work of task forces on teaching to and assessing the Common Standards, and on exploring future projects and co-marketing.
  - One result was a common narrative document for the Common Qualifications and Competencies to be used by all APC, NACC, and NAJC certification applicants. This will be very helpful to both applicants and CPE supervisors and students.
- Secondly, five of the founding six cognate groups (ACPE, APC, CASC, NAJC, and NACC) who signed the Common Standards for Professional Chaplains and the Common Code of Ethics revised these two foundational documents, now called the Common Qualifications and Competencies.
- ACPE, APC, NACC, and NAJC also co-produced marketing materials to be used together.

- The NACC also continues its collaborative support of the Transforming Chaplaincy Research initiative of George Fitchett, PhD, and Wendy Cadge, PhD, as well as the international Joint Research Council that includes the major chaplaincy associations of North America, Europe, and Australia, to which Katherine (Kate) Piderman, PhD, BCC, remains our NACC representative on the council.
- The new major collaborative venture in 2016 was the Raskob Foundation-funded project that NACC is leading, Partners in Collaborative Planning for Pastoral Care Ministries.
  - It involves several national Catholic ministry associations and organizations that have some part of their ministry devoted to pastoral care.
  - More than 20 pastoral care leaders met in Milwaukee in October 2016 to begin the work of identifying: those with the most critical pastoral needs and the settings where they are most found; the types of pastoral care competencies needed to meet those needs; the diverse ministries (board certified, pastoral associates, volunteers, parish nurses) needed with these competencies; the standards/training/formation required to obtain those competencies; the core elements for professional and volunteer pastoral care formation; and an agreed-upon organization approach to provide the ministry preparation needed.
  - This is an exciting and ambitious project that has the commitment and passion of the participants. The second planning session will take place in May 2017.

**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, as the profile of the NACC continues to change.

- In 2016, 123 new members joined NACC: 49 lay women, 27 lay men, 30 priests, 10 sisters, 4 deacons, 1 brother, and 1 of another faith. This total was less than our 2015 total of 137. Our membership profile now is nearly 55% lay (40% women and 15% men), 23% sisters, 18% priests, and 4% deacons/brothers, and 65.0% board-certified.
- The NACC ended 2016 in sound financial condition, as you can see in the 2016 Financial Report included in the 2016 Annual Report.
  - We began 2016 with a balanced budget, but ended the year with \$1,091,571 revenue and total operating expenses of \$898,130, thus a \$193,441 surplus. Several revenue factors raised this number.
    - We received a \$30,000 Raskob Grant.
    - Our 2016 membership revenue was nearly \$13,000 over budget. This occurred mainly because deferred revenue from 2015 carried over into 2016 due to an early 2015 delay in getting our membership fee process in place.
    - We were \$14,746 over our Annual Campaign budget due to several major gifts totaling over \$12,000 that came toward the end of the year. Along with the continued generosity of our members, these major gifts were wonderful, much-appreciated surprises. Hopefully these gifts augur well for the future.
  - We also stayed under budget in development, the 2016 conference, and webinars.
  - We recorded \$73,020 in unrealized capital gains (recall 2015 had \$17,426 unrealized capital losses).
  - Also, sound financial stewardship kept our operating expenses at \$41,482 under our budget. Overall we are grateful for the year ending well financially.
- Goal IV Team continues to develop future scenarios for NACC, including membership categories, partnerships, and educational offerings as part of these scenarios. We realize that our financial forecast shows us we cannot stay a “business as usual” course 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**