Chaplaincy - Continuing the Healing Ministry of the Church

...continuing the healing ministry
Welcome...continuing the healing ministry
Gonzaga University

- NACC… continuing the healing ministry
- Pastoral Care of the Church
- The mission to serve the most vulnerable
- Formation for Spiritual Care
- Chaplaincy Profession
So What Is a Chaplain?

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcgBmQ13dec
So what is a chaplain?

- [https://westwordsconsulting.com/nacc/what-is-a-chaplain.mp4](https://westwordsconsulting.com/nacc/what-is-a-chaplain.mp4)
NACC Mission

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.
Membership Profile

1998 – 3,559 Members
- 48.4% Sisters (1723)
- 28.5% Lay (982)
- 18.1% Priests (627)
- 5% Brothers and Deacons (180)
- 69% Certified

2018 – 2,009 Members
- 57% Lay (1191)
  - 41.4% Woman
  - 15.6% Men
- 20.7% Sisters (416)
- 17.9% Priests (360)
- 3.8% Brothers and Deacons (77)
- 0.6% Other Faiths
- 66.0% Certified
Membership Profile: Age

Member distribution by age - June 2018

No. of Members

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Ensuring Highest Quality Pastoral/Spiritual Care

NACC

AGPIM

CHA PCAC

CHAPLAINCY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

CATHOLIC MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS

DIOCESES

USCCB SCEMS

PASTORAL/SPIRITUAL CARE
Advocate for Profession
Common Qualifications and Competencies for Certification
Professional Ethics
Certification

Abbreviations: NACC – National Association of Catholic Chaplains
ACPE – Association for Clinical Pastoral Education
APC – Association of Professional Chaplains
NAJC – Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains
CASC – Canadian Association for Spiritual Care
Strategic Partners

ACPE

National Association of Catholic Chaplains

Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains

CASC/ACSS

Canadian Association for Spiritual Care

Association canadienne de soins spirituels

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Strategic Partners
History of Collaboration

- Dialogue ‘88 and ‘94
- White Paper 2001 Professional Chaplaincy in HC
- Foundational Documents 2004
- Spiritual Care Summit 2009
- Ongoing collaborative communication 2011-2014
- APC/ACPE/NACC Task Forces 2014-2016
- 2018 MOU – Strengthening the Profession Together

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The vision of the Strategic Partners is to formalize a relationship that enables us together to act to ensure all those we serve experience the highest quality spiritual care and to safeguard the future of the spiritual care profession.
Strategic Partners
Key Initiatives

- Ethics / Advocacy
- Certification
- Research
- Resources
- Collaborative Professional Development

http://player.pbs.org/viralplayer/2365825505/

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Strategic Partners
Key Initiatives - Certification

- Common Qualifications and Competencies
  - 2004 – Foundational Documents
  - 2011 – SCC – draft revisions (NACC/CASC/APC)
  - 2016 – ACPE/APC/CASC/NACC/NAJC

- Consistency of Education/Assessment for Certification
  - ACPE/APC/NACC 2015 Task Force
    - ACPE Educational Outcomes
  - Common writing guide for Competencies
Catholic Church Relationships

**USCCB**
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- President Appoints Liaison
- Subcommittee on Certification for Ecclesial Ministry & Service
- Committee on Catholic Education
- Approves Certification Competencies and Procedures

**USCCB Liaison**
- Bishop Donald Hying

**NACC**
- Board of Directors
- Episcopal Advisory Council – 14 regions
- Advise on Ecclesial and Ministerial Matters

**ORDINARIES**
- Endorse Lay Ecclesial Health Care Ministers, Chaplains and CPE Supervisors

**NACC**
- Executive Director
- Certification Commission

**ACLEM**
- Alliance for Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministry
- Certifies Lay Ecclesial Ministers

**AGPIM**
- Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry
- Offer Graduate Degrees and Programs in Preparation for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care

**CHA USA**
- Pastoral Care Advisory Comm.
- Advocates for and Strengthens Spiritual Care in Healthcare Settings

**Catholic Chaplain Associations**
- ACCCA, NCVACC, NCCAC

**Certification Commission**
- USCCB Liaison – Bishop Donald Hying

**USCCB**
- President Appoints Liaison

**NACC**
- Certification Commission
Structural/Oversight Realities

- NACC – 1965
- USCCB/Commission on Certification and Accreditation (1991-2011)
- USCCB Liaison
- USCCB Episcopal Advisory Council
- USCCB Subcommittee on Certification for Ecclesial Ministry and Service
NACC Experience

- Living out the call to:
  - the pastoral care ministry of the Church in
  - the profession of spiritual care
  - Chaplains, directors of pastoral care, in acute care, long term care, hospices
  - Variety of settings where we tend to spiritual and emotional needs of patients or residents, families and loved ones, associates and colleagues.
  - Professional Competencies for Certification
NACC Experience

- A vocation and ministry
  - motivated by our faith
  - discerned within the context of the Church
  - lived in relationship to our faith community and those who lead these faith communities.

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In the name of the Church: Theological/Pastoral Realities

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Ministry as Call

- Within universal call to holiness
- Specified within broader call to mission
  - “in and through”
  - “on behalf of”
Ministry as Call

- Rooted in personal
- Discovered through relationships
  - Family
  - Friends
  - Colleagues
  - Faith companions
- Discerned with and through Church
Lay Ecclesial Ministry (LEM)

- Generic (encompass and describe many)
  - Not a specific position title or ranking
  - “adjective” to identify a developing and growing reality, describe it more fully, understanding more deeply

- Lay
- Ecclesial – communion/mission
- Ministry
  - Share in three-fold ministry of Christ
- Constant reference to one source – ministry of Christ

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Spiritual Care as LEM

- Church’s Pastoral Care of the Sick
- Parish ministry to sick
- Chaplaincy as a specialized ministry
  - Beyond/yet part of diocesan ministry
  - Endorsed as LEM
  - Recognized with Professional Certification
Relationship to the Larger Church

- LEM formation vs. certification
- Ecclesial endorsement of BCC lay chaplains as “lay ecclesial ministers”
- Place of chaplains within the larger ministry of dioceses
Formation/Certification

Formation Needs
- Critical human qualities *to form* wholesome relationship and *to be* instruments of God’s love and compassion
- Spirituality and prayer practice *to root/ground/animate*
- Adequate knowledge and intellectual skill *to use*
- Practical pastoral abilities *call for*

CPE and Certification Expectations?
Discernment and Affirmation Process

“As a ministry of the Church, our NACC members recognize their call to serve requires a discernment and affirmation process structured by the Church and approved by the bishop(s). The seminary process for priests is clear. In the case of lay people who are considered by the Church for lay ecclesial ministry, this discernment and affirmation process may vary from diocese to diocese.”

“Bishop Melczek’s comments cited above refer to NACC’s certification process as part of that discernment and affirmation process for our members. Our certification process is intended to provide an assurance that our board certified members are prepared for this specialized ministry and will represent the Church.”

(2-11-11 David Lichter letter to Bishops, NACC Episcopal Council endorsed)
Ecclesial endorsement of BCC lay chaplains as “lay ecclesial ministers”

- Your letter of endorsement conveys two messages.

- First of all, it implicitly is an affirmation of the NACC process that informs you that a person’s call and preparation align with the ministerial competencies and expectations found in NACC’s USCCB/CCA approved Standards for Certification.

- Secondly, while endorsement is neither an *authorization* nor an *appointment*, its most common understanding is that it affirms that the person is “in good standing” and has the disposition or character to serve.
  - In most cases in considering whether to endorse a lay person, you rely on the recommendation of the person’s pastor. Hopefully, over time you will be able to personally meet with our member to get to know him/her whenever possible.

(2-11-11 David Lichter letter to Bishops, NACC Episcopal Council endorsed)
The NACC offers an enormous advantage to
the Church in assisting the bishops in the
oversight of this vital ministry. It also assures
the people whom we serve that those who
minister to them on behalf of Jesus and his
Church are grounded in Catholic theology,
adhere to the ‘Ethical and Religious
Directives,’ and extend the ministry of the
Church with the formal approval of the
bishop.” Bishop Melczek, 2004, letter to
bishops.
Professional Chaplaincy

Requirements for board certification

1. Endorsement
2. Active member of NACC
3. Bachelor’s degree and graduate-level theological degree from accredited college, university, or theological school (theology, divinity, religious studies, pastoral ministry, pastoral studies, or spirituality)
4. Four units (Levels I & II) of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) accredited or approved by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)
Place of chaplains within the larger ministry of dioceses

- Relationships
- Integration
- Recognition

- How can we help?
Pastoral care assumes a very specific understanding as

- “the nature and caring activity of the divine” and
- “of the human persons in relation to the divine”
  (Lartey 2012)
- We continue the healing ministry of Jesus, which is a pastoral ministry of the Pastor Bonus or Good Shepherd. (John 10:1-18)
The Introduction of Part Two of the ERD’s

- The dignity - creation in the image of God (Gn 1:26), from redemption of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:10; 2 TM 2:4-6),
- Destiny to share a life with God beyond all corruption (1Cor 15:42-57).
- Respects the human dignity and eternal destiny of all.
- “I was ill and you cared for me.” (Mt 25:36).

- The integrity or wholeness of the human person
- Community of healing and compassion
Most Vulnerable

- Aged
- Ill
- Dying
- Victims of loss, destruction, violence
- Lost, lonely
- Imprisoned
- Refugees/immigrants

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Pastoral Care

“…so they do not feel excluded from the community and they can experience, because of the proximity of one who meets them, the presence of Christ which passes now in the midst of the sick in body and spirit.”

Partners in Pastoral Care

- Those with the most critical pastoral needs and the settings where they are mostly found;
- The 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 accountabilities required;
- An agreed upon organization approach to providing the ministry preparation needed in response to what we learned.
Partners in Pastoral Care

Emphases
- Eldercare
- Homecare settings within parishes
- Faith community nursing
- Migrants, immigrants, and refugees
- Criminal justice settings and the care for families of those incarcerated

Competencies
- Eldercare
- Criminal Justice
- Diocesan/parish settings
- Permanent Deacons
Collaborations

The Profession:
- Association For Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)
- Association of Professional Chaplains (APC)
- Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC)
- Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC)

The Ministry:
- USCCB Episcopal Liaison
- USCCB Advisory Council
- The Provinces of Bishops
- USCCB/SCEMS

Pastoral Care Initiative
- Criminal Justice
- Elder Care/Long Term Care
- Faith Community Nursing
- Diocesan Programs
- Permanent Deaconate
- Immigrant/Migrant/Refugee Populations
- VA Chaplains
- SCEMS
- Hispanic/Latino
- African America

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Questions - Reflections

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Thank you!

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