WHAT is NACC?

Founded in 1965 by the U.S. Bishops, the National Association of Catholic Chaplains 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.

NACC currently has more than 1,900 members who serve people of diverse faiths, cultures and identities with 58 percent laypeople, 18 percent religious women, 19 percent priests, 5 percent permanent deacons and religious brothers.

NACC members include: chaplains, CPE educators, directors of spiritual care, mission leaders, interdisciplinary professionals, diocesan and pastoral care ministry leaders, pastoral care service volunteers—all those who view their profession as continuing the healing ministry.

For more information visit nacc.org.

What is NACC’s MISSION?

NACC 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.

NACC represents professionals dedicated to the spiritual care of persons experiencing pain, vulnerability, joy and hope.

For more information visit nacc.org.
NACC sponsors a variety of webinars, local/regional education events, as well as an annual National Conference for ongoing professional development.

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

NACC provides valuable resources for leading practices in spiritual care services.

NACC offers board certification for professional chaplains. The certification process is open and available to Catholic laypeople, priests, religious sisters/brothers and permanent deacons.

NACC co-developed and remains committed to the Common Certification Qualifications and Competencies for Professional Chaplaincy, as well as the Common Code of Ethics for Chaplains.

NACC works in partnership with other professional chaplaincy organizations, including the Association of Professional Chaplains, Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care.

NACC co-developed the Pastoral Care Competencies for diverse settings with the Catholic Partners in Pastoral Care.

NACC partnered with the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition (CPMC) in developing three Pathways for formation and credentialing for correctional ministries.

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

NACC partners 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.

Partners include:
• Catholic Health Association’s Pastoral Care Advisory Committee to advance and support spiritual care in Catholic health care settings.
• The Catholic Bishops and Catholic ministry associations to promote and strengthen the pastoral care ministry of all who continue the healing ministry in the name of the Church.