

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**NACC**

National Association of Catholic Chaplains

# LETTER FROM NACC'S BOARD CHAIR



Fellow members of the NACC,

Looking back on 2023 it is important to celebrate the tremendous work the NACC Staff and member-leaders have put forth in their mission of constant improvement. This commitment will enable the NACC to move forward with its bold vision for the future and to support the vital work of all who continue the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church.

We are building infrastructure and expanding our ministry to help meet the tremendous need for chaplains and pastoral care ministers serving healthcare organizations, parishes, schools, correctional facilities, first responder ministries, and communities throughout the country.

This is an extraordinary moment for Catholics. Pope Francis is calling us to radically rethink ecclesial life, challenging us to give priority to the wounded and to travel to the peripheries to accompany those living on the margins. NACC desires to be the largest group of Catholic Chaplains ever assembled, bringing Jesus' healing to a needy world.

As chaplains, we can never forget what we're about. We are the embodiment of Jesus, going into hard places, dealing with impossible situations, and accompanying terrified and disoriented families and patients. We are present in the ER, in the ICU, in the Prison Cell, and in the quiet of a person crossing into new life after death. That is us.

I want to personally thank you for your hard work. Being a Chaplain is not meant to be an easy profession. Chaplains are on the front line helping those in need, moving into some of the most difficult spaces as most others leave. Amidst the difficulty, I personally think it so rewarding, a gift to the human spirit.

Please continue to pray for the many people who are suffering, that they come to know the healing ministry of Christ.

Peace,

Deacon Jack R. Conrad BCC  
Board Chair



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.

# LETTER FROM MOST REVEREND BISHOP HAINES



Dear NACC Community,

As I live into my second year as the Episcopal Liaison for the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, I am full of hope and appreciation. My inaugural year was a fruitful experience as I learned more about the organization and its offerings to its members and the whole Church. I also had the opportunity to meet many of you, its dedicated members, in person at the 2023 NACC Retreat at the University of St. Mary of the Lake. Reflecting on the strengths and future of the NACC, I see many parallels to the hopes and desires uncovered by the Synod for a Synodal Church, most notably, the aspiration for co-responsibility.

The NACC and its members have an extensive history of co-responsibility as chaplains and pastoral care ministers continuing the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of our Church. Through our partnership with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the NACC board-certified chaplains reflect a tangible example of an empowered 'relationship of collaboration.' Until June 30, 2023, the NACC worked with the former USCCB's Subcommittee on Certification for Ecclesial Ministry and Service (SCEMS). The Subcommittee dissolved after 12 synergetic years of working together. I want to express my gratitude to Mark DeMonico, the lead staff of SCEMS and liaison for the NACC, for his dedication and care to the work and members of the NACC. The NACC will now work with Paul Jarzembowski and Dominic Lombardi from the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, whom Erica Cohen Moore and I had the pleasure of meeting in November during the USCCB's Plenary Assembly. It was a stirring encounter, and I look forward to our future work together.

As we discern how to continue living out our synodal call for co-responsibility, I am hopeful for the NACC's future. The board of directors has a bold vision of becoming a centralized resource and home for Catholic pastoral ministry. The NACC can faithfully and humbly meet a central need in today's Church—empowering pastoral care ministers, especially the laity, through formation, community, and personal development. As a bishop, a lifelong pastor, and an advocate for lay, clergy, and religious ministry formation, I am thrilled to see Catholic Partners in Pastoral Care come to life, and the NACC work to expand professional chaplaincy.

I will continue to hold the NACC in my prayers.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jeffrey R. Haines  
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee, USCCB Episcopal Liaison to NACC

**“NACC is one of the best kept secrets of the Catholic Church...  
when the work of its members is so vital as spiritual companions  
to those who are sick or suffering. Now is the time for it to come  
out from under the bushel basket to let its light shine brightly.”**

**– Donna O'Brien MHA**

# LETTER FROM NACC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As I reflect on 2023, I am delighted with what the NACC community, leadership, and staff have accomplished. We spent the year re-evaluating, re-envisioning, and restructuring to continue supporting our members while growing their visibility as primary beacons of hope and light in the church.

*"Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:15-16)*

The chaplains and members of NACC have accompanied the sick, the imprisoned, the marginalized, and the invisible for 58 years. By nature, they do it quietly and humbly, without fanfare and comfortably hidden under the proverbial bushel basket. In 2023 the NACC created a lampstand, a solid infrastructure, allowing us to share the charitable light of their good deeds with the church, and the world.

It was a year of growth and change, charged with hope and a reimagining of chaplaincy in a synodal church.

- We grew our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging initiatives by forming a DEIB committee. We hosted an anti-racism training for all NACC leadership at the beginning of the year.
- We contracted with a development company, Changing Our World (CoW), to help envision a comprehensive plan to establish the long-term financial stability for the NACC. Based on recommendations made by CoW, prayer, and guidance from the Holy Spirit, Alex Rich joined the NACC team as our first Director of Development to provide oil for the lamp so it can keep burning longer and brighter.
- The NACC completed a comprehensive technology and systems audit with ExcalTech resulting in significant improvements, including upgraded computer software and the implementation of enhanced security protocols.
- Our Marketing and Communications team, Westwords Consulting, conducted a communication survey to gauge how our members prefer to receive information. The survey results confirmed we needed an immediate website update and a fresh concept for Vision magazine. It also affirmed our concise NACC newsletter format, and that our members like that we communicate via multiple platforms.
- Our outreach continues to expand, growing chaplaincy awareness across different ministry settings and platforms. We expanded our memberships for Educational Collaborators and Healthcare Collaborators. Focused discussions were held with Public Safety (First Responder) Chaplains, Chaplains to the Incarcerated, and Seafarers Chaplains to explore competencies and education processes that can lead members of those ministries to become Certified Associate Chaplains.

I am grateful to serve the NACC community and feel blessed to work with an amazing team, a talented and committed board of directors, and a community who continue the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church.

2023 was a year to look internally, to dream, to plan, and to build the lampstand where the light of the chaplain and our members will shine brightly in 2024!

With gratitude,

Erica Cohen Moore  
Executive Director

# 2023 GROWTH & CHANGE

BENEFITS THE MEMBERS

BENEFITS THE ORGANIZATION

BENEFITS THE CHURCH

## STRATEGIC GOALS

### Ministry & the Church

To advance excellence in Catholic Pastoral Care NACC will become the creator and curator of programs for the development and formation of all who serve in the Church's pastoral care ministry.

### Racial Justice, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging

NACC will promote Racial Justice, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging among its members and assess/ remedy inequities within the association.

### Education & Marketing

Implement a major marketing initiative to increase awareness of the vital vocation of chaplaincy, while maintaining relationships with Strategic Partners for spiritual care to advance the profession.

### Structure & Finance

To ensure that NACC has the structural and personnel capabilities, and financial resources to accomplish the strategic priorities.

## WEBINAR SERIES

Staying true to our mission to educate and support chaplains, NACC provided 11 enriching professional development webinars for our members. We had over 170 members attend these sessions for a total of 1,322 continuing education hours. The webinars ranged in topic as each highlighted an important part of our members daily work and ministry.

NACC also provided several free educational offerings for members throughout the year. These were offered in a live format and members were also provided access to the recorded sessions. Sessions ranged from chaplaincy specific webinars to NACC business related webinars. These provided 1,100 additional continuing education hours to the more than 700 attending members.

**"I attend professional development webinars because I want to learn how I might better be the chaplain our people need and deserve!"**

**Providing Chaplaincy to Oncology Patients and Their Families**  
Presented by Rev. Tarra Larcena Taylor MDiv, BCC, February 16

**Honoring and Supporting Grief and Loss in the Lives of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Their Families**  
Presented by Bill Gaventa, March 16

**Tools to Transform Resistance and Create Flow in Our Relationships**  
Presented by Denise Blanc MA, April 20

**Listening and Responding to Concepts of God in the Context of Trauma and Grief**  
Presented by Anastasia Wendlinder PhD, June 15

**Diary Writing and Discernment (Angela meets Ignatius)**  
Presented by Angela R. Hooks PhD, July 20

**Trauma's Impact on Faith Belief and Practice**  
Presented by William M. Watson SJ, DMin, August 17

**Trauma-Informed Spiritual Care: Essential Concepts and Practices**  
Presented by Lisa M. Cataldo MDiv, PhD, September 21

**Cultural Humility in Health Services**  
Presented by Dr. Mojgan (Mo) Sami, October 19

**Chaplaincy and The Muslim Faith**  
Presented by Jaye Starr, November 16

**Integrating Reflective and Evidence-Based Practice: How Research Supports Our Chaplaincy Practice**  
Presented by Caterina Mako BCC, ThM, DMin & Csaba Szilagyi, December 7

**Healing from The Invisible Wounds of War**  
Presented by Roy Harrington, December 14

# PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Our regular schedule of networking calls keep members connected throughout the year to learn and grow together. The calls connect groups within the chaplaincy profession including African Chaplains, CPE Educators, Directors of Spiritual Care, Nurse Chaplains, Palliative Care and Hospice Chaplains, Purposeful Retirement, and First Responders/Public Safety Task Force.

Over 850 members participated in the cumulative 47 hours of networking calls throughout the year.

**My transition to Chaplaincy was enhanced immeasurably by my association with NACC and its many resources. I joined in 2015 and have served a term on the Finance Committee.**

**I am hopeful that we will find new lay people to prepare and serve as Catholic Chaplains. Answering God's call is a blessing that I share with all who are interested.**

– Timothy J. Crowley

## OUR MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Members of the NACC work tirelessly on our many committees, panels, and commissions to make an impact for our members and for the profession of chaplaincy. Thank you to our members who volunteer for these important groups.

### Board of Directors

Deacon Jack R. Conrad BCC

### Finance Committee

Donna O'Brien MHA

### Governance Committee

Dr. Ruth Jandeska EdD, MA, BCC

### Development Committee

### National Conference Planning

### Competencies Commission

Rev. Alejandro De Jesus OSB, BCC-VA

### Certification Commission

Gary Weisbrich BCC-PCHAC

### Certification Appeals Panel

Bonnie J. McCulley BCC

### Interview Team Educators

Teresa Sullivan BCC

### Ethics Commission

Gina Lyke BCC

### Ethics Appeals Panel

### Annual Awards Advisory Panel

### Editorial Advisory Panel

David Lewellen

### Education Advisory Panel

### State Liaisons

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) Committee

### Marketing Advisory Panel

Amy B. Mickolite BCC

### Nominations Panel

Bridget Deegan-Krause MDiv, BCC

### Research Advisory Panel

### Special Representative, Red Cross

Timothy G. Serban BCC

### Special Representative, Journal of Pastoral Care

Dr. Ruth Jandeska EdD, MA, BCC

WE NEWLY CERTIFIED

56  
CHAPLAINS

AND

RENEWED CERTIFICATION

FOR OVER  
120

## THE NEW CAC

As part of our mission to advocate for the profession of spiritual care, in 2023, NACC worked to expand support further and include more pastoral care ministers in the United States. After much prayer and discernment, NACC adjusted the requirements for the Certified Associate Chaplain (CAC) level of certification.

Recognizing that the rigorous board certification process may not be appropriate, accessible, or needed for all pastoral care ministers, the CAC provides a broader pathway to certification for pastoral care ministers in various ministry areas like prison ministry, long-term care/rehab facilities, shelters, police/fire stations, seaports, and the diaconate. As the need for chaplaincy continues to grow in different sectors of society, the NACC continues to explore ways to provide a variety of specialty certifications to meet this demand and welcome more chaplains into the NACC family.

## With Gratitude.

**Thank you to our members and partners who donated to the NACC annual campaign. Because of your gift NACC was able to carry out the valuable work of our mission. Together we raised \$51,938 to support spiritual care.**





**Come Rest,  
Remember the Treasure**

Mundelein, Illinois • June 1 – 3, 2023  
National Association of Catholic Chaplains

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The events of the past three years changed each of us. They have asked so much, and we have responded with our best. But there is weariness—and NACC is a community of care. The 2023 conference was not a conference in the traditional sense, rather it was a time of retreat, of remembering the treasure: the treasure of this ministry, the treasure of our faith, the treasure each of us are to the Church.

The conference was devoted to gathering with one another: to support one another, to engage in courageous and honest dialogue, and to identify and celebrate what sustains us as healing ministers of the Church.

The retreat offered various options for participants and allowed each person to decide how best to spend their time. Opportunities included formal presentations, small group learning, prayer, meditation, art experiences. It was truly a time designed by each participant to care for their own needs. The retreat was different for each participant and allowed us to gather for a time of rest, of laughter, of joy and healing. Thank you to the members of the planning committee and the sponsors for making this happen.

We pray participants came away from this time rejuvenated and inspired.

**“Thank you for making the place and space available post-pandemic for fellowship and reflection.”**



## AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Outstanding Colleague Award**  
Rabbi Maurice S. Kaprow EdD, BCC

**Emergent Leader Award**  
Preston A. Becker BCC

**Distinguished Service Award**  
Sr. Pamela J. Nosbusch OSF, BCC

(Left to Right) Erica Cohen Moore, Rabbi Maurice S. Kaprow EdD, BCC, Preston A. Becker BCC, Sr. Pamela J. Nosbusch OSF, BCC, Deacon Jack R. Conrad BCC

# PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Thank you to our partners in ministry for journeying alongside us to support pastoral care.



CASC/ACSS  
Canadian Association for Spiritual Care / Association canadienne de soins spirituels



# HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION COLLABORATORS

Thank you to our healthcare and education collaborators for supporting the NACC and our members through your partnership.



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PASTORAL MINISTRIES





# WHEN THE WORLD CRUMBLES, HOPE RISES: INSIDE THE RED CROSS DISASTER SPIRITUAL CARE

Picture the aftermath of a disaster - homes reduced to ash, families mourning loved ones, communities reeling in shock. In these moments of deepest despair, a beacon of hope shines through the American Red Cross Disaster Spiritual Care (DSC) program. Dedicated volunteers, chaplains, faith leaders from all walks of faith, walking alongside those affected. They offer more than just a hand; they offer a compassionate presence, a listening ear, and a space for spiritual solace amidst the chaos. This is the essence of the DSC program - providing emotional and spiritual support to individuals and families 24/7, 365 days a year.

The DSC program began following the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 which paved the way for the National Transportation Safety Board to delegate the responsibility for providing disaster spiritual care, mental health, health care, childcare, and mass care services to the Red Cross.

To meet the specific responsibility of providing disaster spiritual care, the Red Cross sought out the partnership of professional chaplaincy organizations like the NACC. The first DSC team was trained at the NACC conference in San Diego, CA, in March of 1999. The DSC program has grown exponentially from a collaborative partner to a fully integrated function of the Red Cross. The DSC remains 100% volunteer-led and supported with volunteer service associates, supervisors, division advisors, and national leads present in every region, state, and territory of the US.

Their impact spans across every kind of tragedy:

- House fires: Offering immediate comfort to displaced families, helping them navigate grief and loss.
- National disasters: From wildfires to hurricanes, DSC volunteers stand shoulder-to-shoulder with communities, providing solace and hope in the face of devastation.
- Mass shootings: In moments of unthinkable tragedy, DSC volunteers offer sensitive support to families and first responders, helping them process the unimaginable.

In 2023, DSC volunteers made a life-changing difference:

- Guam: After super-typhoons decimated the island, DSC volunteers provided sustained support and trained 20 new volunteers to continue the healing process.
- Maui Wildfires: Partnering with mental health professionals, they offered comfort and guidance to displaced families facing immense loss and long-term recovery.
- Mass shootings: From California to Maine, DSC volunteers provided sensitive support to grieving communities, helping them find strength and solace.
- Individual interventions: Over 2,500 times, DSC volunteers offered spiritual support to individuals facing the loss of loved ones, homes, or even beloved pets.

The DSC program thrives on the dedication of volunteers, chaplains, and the invaluable partnerships with professional chaplaincy organizations like ours. By walking alongside individuals and communities at their most vulnerable, helping them find strength, meaning, and a path forward, we can ensure that even in the darkest hours, hope never fades.

Tim Serban BCC  
American Red Cross Disaster Spiritual Care  
Volunteer National Lead and NACC  
representative to the American Red Cross

\* Become a beacon of hope as part of the Red Cross Disaster Spiritual Care program through training that is typically offered at the NACC conference.



# NEWLY CERTIFIED

## Board Certified Chaplain (BCC)

Fr. Paul Abhulimen BCC  
Fr. Simon Adigwe BCC  
Fr. Paschal Anionye BCC  
Fr. Emmanuel Ebenezer Arthur BCC  
Fr. Joseph Ayima BCC  
Deacon Michael G. Boldizar BCC  
Fr. Encarnacion Julian Cabrera BCC  
Regina W. Campbell BCC  
Oscar F. Chaparro BCC  
Angela M. Cotta BCC  
John R. Cusick OFS, BCC  
Fr. Ravi Dasari BCC  
Gail L. De Vito BCC  
Jose M. Diaz BCC  
Ayo Efidigbue BCC  
Sr. Mary Pamela Eke DDL, BCC  
Fr. Martin Ene BCC  
Mary Espitia BCC  
Megan R. Everett BCC  
Geetha Fernandes BCC  
Martha Garza BCC  
Lisa Gramlich BCC  
Fr. George Adjei Gyasi BCC  
Mary Ellen Herx BCC  
Fr. Cajetan N. Ihwulezi CSSp, BCC  
Fr. Ernesto Jandonero BCC  
Daniel Jones BCC  
Alexandra Jozefowski BCC  
Sr. Barbara J. Kane OP, BCC  
Jeff Kendall BCC  
Catherine Kiley BCC  
Caryn Lamping BCC  
Deborah Mayer BCC  
Patrick Miron BCC  
Fr. Francis Neissery BCC  
Sr. Phuong Ha Nguyen SP, BCC  
Fr. Anthony Offorbuzor Okolo CMF, BCC  
Fr. Duncan Okebe Onyango BCC  
Kevin Pike BCC  
Laurel K. Plumage MAPS, BCC  
Jennifer Reek BCC  
Philip N. Reeves BCC  
Kate Ritger BCC  
April Ross BCC  
Faith C. Scimecca BCC  
Loretta Susan Slavin BCC  
Emily M. Southerton BCC  
Fr. John Bosco Ssekkomo BCC  
Marie Talley BCC  
Donna R. Thompson BCC  
Fr. Eugene Chijioke Umeyor BCC  
Fr. Uchenna Uzoechi BCC  
Dolphus L. Vest Jr. BCC  
Deacon Charles P. Wessler MA, JD, BCC  
Terese Wier BCC

## Certified Associate Chaplain (CAC)

Matthew I. Bowles CAC

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deacon Jack R. Conrad BCC\*\*\*  
CHAIR, Director of Spiritual Care, CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, Santa Fe, NM

Austine Duru MDiv, MA, MHA, BCC\*\*\*  
CHAIR ELECT/SECRETARY, Chief Mission Integration Officer, Providence Mission Hospital – Laguna Beach / Mission Viejo, Mission Viejo, CA

Donna O'Brien MHA\*\*\*  
TREASURER, Strategic Visions in Healthcare, LLC, New York, NY

Dr. Ruth Jandeska EdD, MA, BCC  
MEMBER, System Director/Spiritual Care, Bon Secours Mercy Health, Cincinnati, OH

Rev. Richard J. Bartoszek BCC  
MEMBER, Director of Spiritual Care, Corewell Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe, MI

Rev. Lawrence X. Chellaian BCC  
MEMBER, Vice President of Mission Integration, CHRISTUS Health, Texarkana, TX

Maureen M. Larkins MBA  
MEMBER, Vice President of Strategic and Community Affairs at Ascension, Evanston, IL

Dr. Caterina Mako ThM, DMin, BCC  
MEMBER, Director of Spiritual Care, Chaplain Services, Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia, PA

Sedona T. Montelongo BCC-PCHAC  
MEMBER, Palliative care chaplain at Pain and Palliative Associates, Phoenix, AZ

Antonina M.M. Olszewski MSQ  
MEMBER, Ascension WI, Vice President Spiritual Care, Mission Integration, Glendale, WI

Most Reverend Jeffrey R. Haines  
EPISCOPAL LIAISON, Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee, St. Francis, WI

Erica Cohen Moore\*\*\*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, National Association of Catholic Chaplains, Milwaukee, WI

\*\*\* Member of the Executive Committee

# NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Erica Cohen Moore  
Executive Director

Jeanine Annunziato  
Director of Administration

Anita Houghton  
Director of Pastoral Care & Certification

Alex Rich  
Director of Development

Michelle Mettlach  
Administrative Specialist/Membership & Certification

**Thank you to the certification commission, interview team educators, and interview teams who's work allowed us to newly certify 56 chaplains.**

# FINANCIALS

# 2023

## 2023 Fiscal Year

Total Revenue ————— \$913,295

Total Expenses ————— \$1,021,735

## Operating Expenses

|                                    |       |           |
|------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| ● Advocating/Promoting Chaplaincy  | ————— | \$63,200  |
| ● Certification                    | ————— | \$136,741 |
| ● CPMC***                          | ————— | \$108,514 |
| ● Education                        | ————— | \$101,112 |
| ● Member Support                   | ————— | \$66,170  |
| ● Member Networking/Communications | ————— | \$117,054 |
| ● Administration/Governance        | ————— | \$298,516 |
| ● Fundraising                      | ————— | \$130,428 |

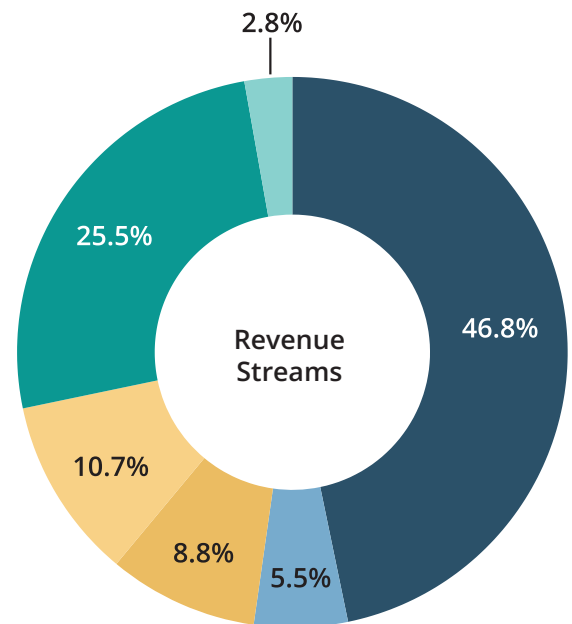
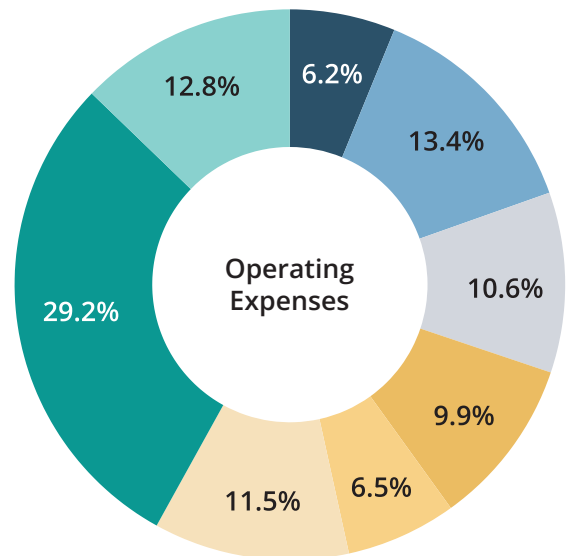
## Revenue Streams

|                          |       |           |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------|
| ● Memberships Dues       | ————— | \$427,299 |
| ● Certification Fees     | ————— | \$50,120  |
| ● Contributions & Grants | ————— | \$79,935  |
| ● Education*             | ————— | \$97,995  |
| ● Investments            | ————— | \$232,589 |
| ● Miscellaneous**        | ————— | \$25,357  |

\* includes national conference, webinars, local events

\*\* includes job listings

\*\*\* includes distribution of CPMC cash on hand



**“I’m excited that the NACC is expanding in the area of fund development.**

**It takes money to spread the word about chaplaincy, ease the financial burden of chaplain training, and help fill the need for chaplains in our nation’s prisons and hospitals.**

**The NACC has a great case for giving.”**

**– Mary Bomba**

**D**ISCIPLINESHIP  
**I**NTEGRITY  
**S**TEWARDSHIP  
**C**OMPASSION  
**I**NCLUSIVITY  
**P**ROFESSIONALISM  
**L**EADERSHIP  
**E**MPOWERMENT



**NACC**

National Association of Catholic Chaplains

**VISIT [NACC.ORG](https://www.nacc.org)**