

# Making Spiritual Care a Priority

Education, Clinical & Research Programs  
of Spiritual Care Association, HealthCare  
Chaplaincy Network, & Capstone University





Founded in 1961, HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) is a nonprofit organization with national and global reach, dedicated to fully integrating the intentional care of the human spirit in all health care settings.

HCCN is raising the bar for excellence in spiritual care and helping others deliver effective care through multiple channels.

**WE ARE...**

- Developing and disseminating evidence-based spiritual care education programs and materials for chaplains and all health care disciplines;
- Conducting and facilitating research to advance the knowledge base to guide our field;
- Providing person-to-person care through our hospital chaplaincy programs and phone and video call;
- Advocating for the inclusion of spiritual care in the health care arena at the local, national, and international level.

**These efforts represent a coordinated mission to explore every avenue to improve spiritual care and ensure its availability for all who seek comfort and meaning amid life’s profound challenges.**

## What is spiritual care?

Providing spiritual care means attending to patients' and families' heartfelt values and deepest concerns in the context of their health care, as they face difficult medical decisions and other challenges of serious illness.

Alleviating isolation and ensuring that the care patients receive is what they need and want: these are not ancillary activities to be considered if time allows. They are at the heart of patient-centered care – the stated goal of health care providers and institutions across the country.

In helping patients address the spiritual, existential, and emotional challenges arising during illness and at the end of life, we also open the door to the opportunities for growth and wholeness in these universal situations.

### The Need for Spiritual Care in Healthcare

- In 2024, the AMA adopted policy affirming the need to address patient spirituality in medical education and practice – to educate medical students and physicians on assessing patients' spiritual health, treating spiritual distress (with appropriate referral to chaplains), and ensuring continuing follow-up on patient's spiritual health.
- The National Consensus Project Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care include spiritual care as one of eight essential domains of palliative care. The guidelines require the inclusion of a chaplain or other spiritual care provider on palliative care teams.
- In a study of 3,000 patients at the University of Chicago Medical Center (Williams, et al., *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 2011), patients who had a discussion about religious or spiritual concerns were 120% more likely to report excellent teamwork among their physicians and nurses and 60% more likely to rate overall care as excellent.
- In a study of 1,440 patients at 14 U.S. hospitals (VandeCreek, *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, 2004), patients reported that chaplain visits eased hospitalization, helped patients access mental strength, and accelerated recovery and readiness to return home.

>> <https://www.healthcarechaplaincy.org>



The Spiritual Care Association (SCA), HealthCare Chaplaincy Network's nonprofit affiliate, is committed to building a well-trained and credentialed international workforce of multidisciplinary professionals to fully integrate spiritual care across the health care continuum.

SCA is the first professional membership association for all spiritual care providers that establishes and integrates evidence-based quality indicators, scope of practice, and a knowledge base for spiritual care.

HCCN and SCA seek to bring together the health care field to (1) strengthen and share the evidence of the benefits of spiritual care when it comes to patient satisfaction, reducing suffering, and containing costs, and (2) apply this evidence in all health care decision making – among health care providers, administrators, and policy makers.

### **The Spiritual Care Association**

- Engages and unites multiple interest groups so more people in need receive effective spiritual care
- Opens access to the latest evidence-based knowledge base through the SCA Online Learning Center
- Offers new paths for chaplaincy credentialing, board certification, and clinical pastoral education
- Provides valuable resources that contribute to career development
- Creates a powerful and unified voice for spiritual care

### **Benefits of Membership**

- Discounted Price for Online Professional Education Courses
- Discount Registration for Annual Caring for the Human Spirit Conference
- Free Chaplain Masterclass
- The Chaplain Connection – An Online Resource Center & Community
- Electronic Subscription to Journal of HealthCare Chaplaincy
- New and archived issues of Caring for the Human Spirit Magazine
- Monthly Spiritual Care Updates
- Networking Opportunities
- Online Membership Dashboard
- Membership Directory

### **SCA offers Professional Memberships for**

- Health Care Chaplains
- First Responder Chaplains
- Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplains
- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Health Care Professionals
- E.M.S. Chaplains
- Military Chaplains
- Corrections Chaplains
- Corporate Chaplains
- Community Clergy and Religious Leaders and
- Associations and Institutions in these fields



>> <https://www.spiritualcareassociation.org>



## Capstone University

### Spiritual Care Training Online for All Caring Professions

Capstone University is an interfaith institution that focuses on care of the human spirit as the centerpiece of education and professional preparedness for a broad range of disciplines. Capstone trains chaplains, nurses, social workers, physicians, clergy, mental health professionals, first responders, educators, and others to provide spiritual care to more effectively alleviate the suffering of their patients, clients, and congregants.

### Capstone's Students

Many students come to Capstone having already earned degrees in medicine, psychology, nursing, sociology, or divinity, or having some chaplaincy experience. These accomplished professionals have come to realize that people are bio-psycho-socio-spiritual beings and that silo-based approaches haven't enabled them to provide the level of care to which they aspire.

Their goals are to continue practicing medicine, ministry, mental health care, or whatever it may be, but to help qualitatively more – by addressing the existential roots of human suffering *in combination with* the important work they are already doing. Capstone teaches how to meet the existential or spiritual or religious needs of a patient or client – whatever their backgrounds or beliefs – to achieve the often mentioned but elusive goal of whole-person care.

### Capstone offers graduate degree programs in:

- Chaplaincy
- Pastoral Ministry
- Clinical Pastoral Psychotherapy
- Spiritual Care
- Spiritual Direction
- Thanatology
- Spiritual Care Nursing
- Graduate Academy of CPE Supervision



## Capstone also offers Professional Specialty Certificate Programs in the following:

- Addiction and Recovery Chaplaincy
- First Responder Chaplaincy
- Geriatric and Elder Chaplaincy
- Hospice Chaplaincy
- Spiritual Care Department Management
- Palliative Care Chaplaincy
- Pediatric Chaplaincy
- Spiritual Care Nursing
- Spiritual Care
- Spiritually Informed Social Work
- Trauma Informed Chaplaincy

## Accreditation

All of Capstone's degrees and courses are accredited through our partnership with Carolina Christian College (CCC), which entered our collaboration with 80+ years of excellence in theological studies as well as education in the arts and sciences. Through this alliance, Capstone's full curriculum is available to CCC students and CCC courses are likewise available to students at Capstone. Uniting Carolina Christian College's expertise with Capstone's multi-faith and interdisciplinary offerings for all caring professions provides a broader learning experience for students of both schools.

*"Completing my Doctorate in Theology with a focus on Spiritual Direction at Capstone University was a transformative experience that has deeply enriched my professional and personal journey. The program's rigorous curriculum challenged me to grow academically, spiritually, and personally, equipping me with tools for my work as a priest, the Presiding Bishop of an inclusive Anglican community, and as a licensed mental health provider...The skills and insights I gained have enabled me to integrate spirituality and mental health in meaningful ways, helping those I serve to navigate their own spiritual and emotional journeys."*

— Doctoral Student in Theology /  
Spiritual Direction

**To learn more, visit**  
**[www.CapstoneUniversity.org](http://www.CapstoneUniversity.org)**  
**or contact Capstone by**  
**Phone: (253) 442-6850,**  
**Fax: (253) 212-3343 or**  
**[info@CapstoneUniversity.org](mailto:info@CapstoneUniversity.org).**



## Caring for the Human Spirit<sup>®</sup> Conference

## Westberg symposium

HCCN's and SCA's annual Caring for the Human Spirit Conference and Westberg International Symposium focuses on the latest research and knowledge in the spiritual care field. The event draws professionals from across the country and around the world, including chaplains, nurses, social workers, physicians, first responders, clergy, researchers, palliative care professionals, administrators, and policymakers – all dedicated to defining and sharing best spiritual care practices in health care.

With the addition in 2020 of the annual International Symposium of the Westberg Institute of Faith Community Nursing, the conference has added a significant amount of content for nursing professionals seeking to increase their knowledge and skill in spiritual care.

- The conference features major addresses from international thought leaders and experts from the fields of spiritual care, palliative care, oncology, and related disciplines.
- Each conference offers 30+ workshops on a broad range of topics for advanced practitioners, researchers, and other professionals.
- Nurses and social workers can pursue specified paths of workshops to earn certificates as Spiritual Care Generalists, and chaplains, nurses, social workers, and physicians earn Continuing Education Units at the event.
- Video recordings of conference presentations are made available following the event that can be shared with staff throughout participating organizations.



## Testimonials for the Caring for the Human Spirit Conference

*"The conference is a landmark in the progress of health care. The majority of Americans think their spiritual care is as important as their medical care when they are ill. That means we should be as careful and thorough in spiritual care as we are in medical care. This conference sets the field in the right direction."*

— Charles F. von Gunten, MD, PhD, Vice President of Medical Affairs, Hospice and Palliative Care, Ohio Health System

*"The excellent plenary talks and workshops I attended and several in-depth conversations each addressed something specific we are working on at our hospital, from the big picture perspective of the importance of both research and story in communicating the significance of spiritual care to our healthcare colleagues, to specific new screening tools we may be able to use to screen for spiritual needs. I am very excited about the future of chaplaincy and my place in it after this conference."*

— Denise LaChance, Director of Mission Integration & Spiritual Care for a California Medical Center

*"As a nurse practitioner who cares for cancer patients, my nurse research partner and I found attending the Caring for the Human Spirit conference provided a forum for like-minded healthcare individuals to form a community of inquiry, where learning and supporting one another encourage all of us to continually strive to improve the care for one of the most unique characteristics of all humans...the spirit."*

— Beth Delaney, a Nurse Practitioner and Assistant Professor of Nursing in Ohio

*"The conference was simply fantastic and hopefully a seminal meeting that will take us forward collectively to even greater heights."*

— Tony Powell, BA, MA, MSc, Researcher in Global Health, Nairobi, Kenya

**>> <https://www.spiritualcareassociation.org/conference>**



# LEARNING CENTER

The online SCA Learning Center provides a wealth of education opportunities for chaplains, nurses, social workers, clergy, and other professionals seeking to grow their skills and knowledge in the provision of spiritual care.

The curriculum and courses of the SCA Learning Center are based on standardized, evidence-based scope of practice and quality indicators developed by interdisciplinary, international panels of experts from the fields of chaplaincy, medicine, nursing, psychotherapy, palliative care, social work, research and policy.

## The SCA Learning Center offers

### Self-Guided Courses

More than 25 self-guided, interdisciplinary courses on various aspects of spiritual care. These courses, available for chaplains, nurses, social workers and other professionals, can be taken at each student's own pace over the course of six months.

### Palliative Care Certificate Courses

Instructor-led courses to help professionals of multiple disciplines deliver high-quality spiritual care to palliative care patients. Fundamentals and Advanced courses are available.

### Chaplaincy Management Training

An in-depth, 4-month learning track for current and aspiring directors of chaplaincy/spiritual care departments.



### **Prep Course for Board Certification and Credentialing**

This course helps to prepare candidates to take the Standardized Clinical Knowledge Test, which is part of the chaplaincy certification process of the Spiritual Care Association.

### **Spiritual Care Grand Rounds**

Spiritual Care Grand Rounds is a series of regularly scheduled webinars led by experts of various disciplines, with learning objectives that can be applied immediately to one's professional practice.

### **Chaplain Masterclass**

These popular offerings, free to all, present spiritual care topics in depth to help chaplains effectively address common issues as well as extraordinary situations that arise in the course of their day-to-day work.

### **More information on SCA Learning Center courses:**

- The Learning Center utilizes a state-of-the-art learning management system.
- Each course has been written by one or more subject matter experts.
- Courses are self-directed unless noted as instructor-facilitated.
- Course participants receive access to purchased course(s) within two business days.
- Participants receive printed material/study guides in the mail for each course, shipped within two business days of course purchase.
- There is one test at the end of each course. After completing the test, participants receive a Pass/Fail notification and are allowed a total of three attempts to pass the test.

**>> <https://spiritualcareassociation.org/education>**



## **Reaching More Patients, Families, and Health Care Staff with Spiritual Care**

With the goal of bringing spiritual care to many more people in need, HCCN and SCA have created **Chappy**, which provides chaplaincy care at organizations that do not offer on-site spiritual care or need to supplement the work of their chaplain staff to care for patients, patients' loved ones, and other staff.

Using an app that allows patients and staff to connect with chaplains through their cell phones or other devices, *Chappy* enables us to reach thousands more individuals in small and rural hospitals, long-term care and assisted living facilities, and dialysis and chemotherapy centers.

Many of these organizations also serve patients receiving at-home palliative care or home recovery services who can benefit from telechaplaincy care.

Chaplains in the program are trained to provide care by video call or phone, and stand ready to engage in 20- to 30-minute 'bedside' sessions – wherever patients are located, 365 days a year.

*Chappy* is also designed for seamless integration with health care institutions and demands very little time from staff members. Staff simply share the *Chappy* access link with patients and our chaplains do the rest.

With the movement toward telehealth throughout the medical arena, it's time for the field of chaplaincy to take full advantage of the opportunities it offers to reach more people in need of spiritual care. We are actively seeking partnerships with hospitals and other health care organizations across the country.



While Chappy is designed to provide spiritual care at organizations with no on-site chaplains – or to supplement chaplaincy care during off-hours or other gaps in service – it is not intended to be a substitute for on-site chaplains, which is always the best practice.

Given that many patients experience shorter stays in healthcare facilities, Chappy is a perfect service for in-home recovery and palliative care.

**>> More information is available here:  
<https://www.meetchappy.org>**



SCA's Health Care Chaplain Division focuses on the spiritual dimension of health care chaplaincy in a variety of clinical settings. SCA, in partnership with HCCN, seeks to advance health care chaplaincy and spiritual care as an integral aspect of whole person care for all.

## Education and Training Programs

### Chaplain Certification

Using a groundbreaking evidence-based model, SCA offers three types of certification:

#### Credentialed Chaplain (CC)

A Credentialed Chaplain has demonstrated the competencies to perform normal chaplaincy tasks in non-complex settings and under the supervision of a Board Certified Chaplain.

#### Board Certified Chaplain (BCC)

A Board Certified Chaplain has demonstrated competence to perform all the normal tasks within the scope of practice of professional chaplains.

#### Advanced Practice Board Certified Chaplain (APBCC)

The APBCC designation is for chaplains who have demonstrated advanced spiritual care skills by successfully completing a standardized knowledge test and simulated patient exam that evaluates competency in direct patient care. Advanced Practice Board Certified Chaplains have been trained and tested in areas such as department management, HIPAA regulations, the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of spiritual distress, cultural competency, advance care directives, patient clinical care, staff support, grief and bereavement, and other topics.



### **Specialty Certification in Hospice and Palliative Care (APBCC-HPC)**

The new National Consensus Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care encourage all chaplains working in palliative care to be both specially-trained and certified. The APBCC-HPC specialty certification recognizes the unique skills, advanced education and the specialized expertise of hospice and palliative care chaplains. An APBCC-HPC chaplain has demonstrated the advanced skills in the provision of spiritual and chaplaincy care required of an advanced practice chaplain (APBCC), and has successfully completed a standardized test of core knowledge in hospice and palliative care.

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### **Chaplaincy Management Training**

SCA's Chaplaincy Management Training Program is designed to provide directors and aspiring directors of spiritual care departments the tools and training needed to successfully lead and support their staff and provide quality spiritual care throughout their health care institutions. This 4-month program, guided by experts in the field, provides opportunities for interactions with program facilitators and fellow participants, creating a network of peers and friends. Successful candidates will receive the Chaplaincy Management Certificate.

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### **Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy**

Publishes peer-reviewed, scholarly articles based on original research, quality assurance/improvement studies, program descriptions and evaluations, and literature reviews on topics pertinent to pastoral/spiritual care, clinical pastoral education, chaplaincy, and spirituality in relation to physical and mental health. Members of the Health Care Chaplain Division and other SCA Members receive this publication with their membership.

**>> <https://spiritualcareassociation.org/health-care-chaplains>**

# Nursing Division of the

## SPIRITUAL CARE ASSOCIATION

Established to advance the spiritual care component of nursing practice as an integral aspect of high-quality whole-person care.

All nurses are required to provide some form of **spiritual care in their practice**.

The Joint Commission, ANA Scope & Standards of Nursing Practice, American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials, Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice, and other authorities all agree that nurses must be educated to provide appropriate spiritual care, including spiritual assessment of patients.

SCA's Nursing Division was created to **help nurses meet these standards**.

Our mission is to **support best-practice nursing spiritual care and self-care** through education, mentoring, and resources for nurse professionals and nursing-related organizations.



### Our vision is that

- All nurses will have access to high quality, practical information on spiritual care.
- Nurses specializing in spiritual care will be recognized for their expertise.
- Nursing-related organizations will work with SCA to improve health outcomes and support the health of professional care providers.

In 2020, the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing joined the SCA Nursing Division. Westberg Institute is a founding organization of this specialty practice of nurses who provide home- and community-based care for vulnerable members of their congregations, residents of senior housing, and others with special needs. Care of the spirit is an integral part of faith community nursing practice.

### **SCA now offers faith community nurses the following certificate and certification programs:**

#### **Spiritual Care Generalist Certificate**

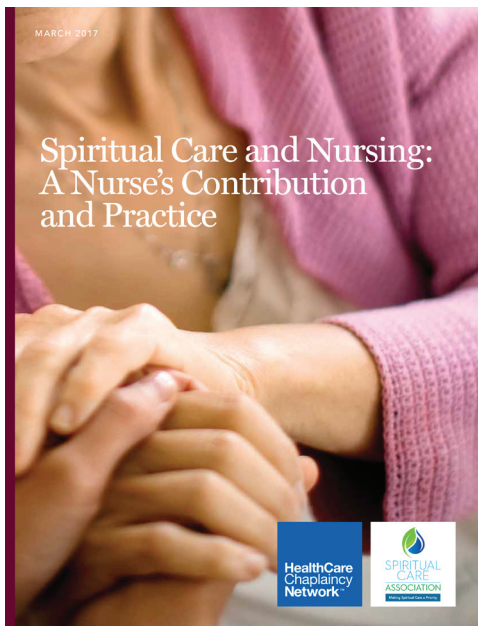
The principal requirement is the completion of three online self-guided courses. This certificate is renewable every two years.

#### **Credentialed Chaplain**

This provides the opportunity for faith community nurses to add this designation to their spiritual care practice.

#### **Board Certified Chaplain**

SCA provides all the training and course work required to earn a BCC in under one year.



### **Spiritual Care and Nursing: A Nurse's Contribution and Practice**

This foundational paper offers an in-depth review of research relating to spiritual care and nursing practice, which affirms the need for nurses to have a grounding in this aspect of whole-person care. The paper also provides nurses with practical guidance and tools for incorporating spiritual care into their daily practice.

**>> <https://spiritualcareassociation.org/nursing>**

# First Responder Chaplain Division

of the

## SPIRITUAL CARE ASSOCIATION

The First Responder Chaplain Division focuses on the spiritual dimension of first response practice, and provides professional training and credentialing in the field of disaster and trauma spiritual care.

### It is designed for:

- Professional board certified or credentialed chaplains or chaplain candidates who seek a specialization certification in crisis, trauma, and disaster first response
- Community leaders providing spiritual care within first response organizations who want to earn a certificate demonstrating applicable knowledge and skill
- All members of first response teams interested in incorporating spiritual care into their practice, including Law Enforcement Chaplains, Fire Chaplains, EMS Chaplains and Disaster Response Chaplains attached to Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)



Our mission is to support best-practice first response spiritual care and self-care through education and resources for professionals and first response-related organizations.

## First Responder Chaplain Certification

Working with an advisory council of experts in first response chaplaincy, SCA has created the first-ever board certification program specifically for first responder chaplains. This succinct and comprehensive module offers three levels of training: Credentialed First Responder Chaplain (CC), Board Certified First Responder Chaplain (BCC), and Advanced Practice First Responder Chaplain (APBCC).

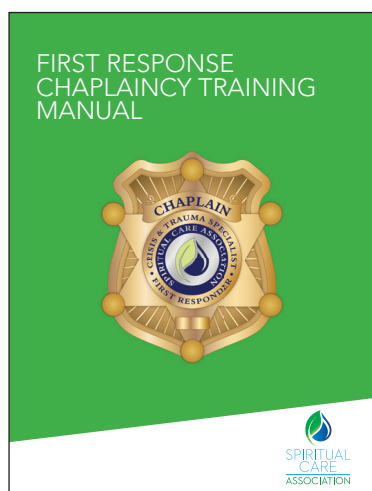
## Crisis, Trauma, and First Response Certificate Course for Chaplains

This course imparts the fundamental skills and knowledge needed to provide spiritual care for people affected by an emergency, crisis, trauma, or disaster. Upon completion of this online, self-guided course, students earn the Crisis, Trauma, and First Response Certificate.

## Why a first responder course for chaplains?

Many chaplains working in first response settings are not board certified or credentialed. As a result, there is a vast difference in skills and knowledge among those working in this capacity. First response organizations have called for a more uniform knowledge base for chaplains working in first response. This course guarantees a standard level of skill in carrying out this highly charged work. Covered subjects include:

- Identifying vulnerable populations
- Models of spiritual assessment use in crisis situations
- Symptoms among first responders of stress, vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue and appropriate interventions



## First Response Chaplaincy Training Manual

Drawing on expertise in the fields of first response, emergency, disaster chaplaincy, and volunteer management, this 145-page manual offers a range of teaching tools and learning activities. It can be used with large or small groups to develop the skills needed for first response spiritual care.

>> <https://spiritualcareassociation.org/first-responder-chaplains>

# Hospice & Palliative Care Division of the



## SPIRITUAL CARE ASSOCIATION

The Hospice & Palliative Care Division of the Spiritual Care Association (SCA) focuses on the spiritual dimension of professional hospice practice, to support chaplains whose specialization is in this setting, community leaders serving as spiritual care generalists in hospice, and all members of hospice teams.

The Hospice & Palliative Care Division advances the spiritual care component of hospice services as an essential aspect of high-quality whole-person care for all, including professionals who provide hospice care.

The Division achieves its mission through education, mentoring, and resources for hospice professionals and organizations, including the course, **Foundations of Hospice Chaplaincy**, offered through the SCA Learning Center.

### The Hospice Division is for

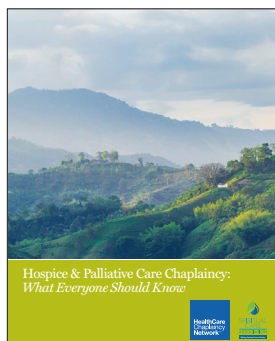
- Professional board certified or credentialed chaplains or chaplain candidates who want specialization certification in hospice and palliative care
- Community leaders providing spiritual care within a hospice organization who want a certificate demonstrating their knowledge and skill
- Other members of hospice teams interested in incorporating spiritual care into their practice



Through courses, other resources, and presentations from national and international experts, members of the SCA Hospice & Palliative Care Division will find collegiality with chaplain colleagues and other hospice professionals; deepen their knowledge of spiritual care within hospice; strengthen their understanding of other faiths and cultures; and further explore their own personal spirituality.

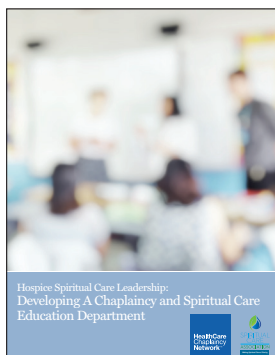
### Benefits of Membership Include:

- Belonging to a supportive professional community that welcomes both novice and seasoned hospice chaplains and other team members
- Notification of new research related to spiritual care and hospice
- Discounted price for online professional educational courses at the SCA Learning Center
- Discounted registration for the annual Caring for the Human Spirit® Conference
- Free Chaplain Masterclass
- Free electronic subscription to the Journal of HealthCare Chaplaincy
- Free Spiritual Care Tip of the Day email
- Membership directory and networking opportunities
- Access to archived webinars and articles related to chaplaincy



### Hospice & Palliative Care Chaplaincy: What Everyone Should Know

This foundational paper provides evidence-based guidance for hospice and palliative care organizations on the value that Board Certified Chaplains bring to their patients, patients' family members, the medical team, and their organization.



### Hospice Spiritual Care Leadership: Developing A Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Education Department

This paper makes the case for Board Certified Chaplains to be hired in leadership roles at hospice organizations. It envisions a Department of Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Education within hospice to integrate spiritual care and oversee compassionate interventions for patients, their families, and staff.

>> <https://spiritualcareassociation.org/hospice>

# Military Chaplain Division of the SPIRITUAL CARE ASSOCIATION



SCA's Military Chaplain Division provides training, resources, mentorship, and other support for chaplains who serve active military personnel, veterans, and their families.

Military chaplaincy in North America dates to pre-Revolutionary War times and has been a consistent presence in the U.S. military throughout the country's history. On July 29, 1775, at the request of General George Washington, the Continental Congress first established the role of Military Chaplain in the armed forces. Since 1789, the government has required chaplains to serve in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Veterans Administration.

Military chaplains care for service members who are suffering from illness or injury; offer support related to deployment, combat stress, marriage and family, and grief; and advise on religious and spiritual matters, including offering ethical guidance to commanding officers. They also conduct worship services and education programs, and work with social workers and mental health professionals who support active duty, reserve, and guard personnel and their families.

As with other areas of chaplaincy, military chaplains require specialized training to meet the needs of the population they serve. The SCA Military Chaplain Division supports these training needs and offers a community of peers who share knowledge and insights that are integral to their profession.

George Washington insisted that chaplains be part of the military. In his own words:

*"A Chaplain for the Regiment ought to be provided...if we are said to want the substance of Godliness!"*

(To John Robinson, 11/9/1756)

And: *"It is a hardship upon the Regiment I think, to be denied a Chaplain."*

(To Governor Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia, 4/29/1757)



SCA's Military Chaplain Division focuses on best practices for chaplains serving in the armed forces or Veterans Administration – beyond the required 72 hours of graduate education in pastoral studies and branch-specific training at Chaplain Corps schools.

Many military chaplaincy programs require candidates to complete a number of units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), which provides hands-on training in spiritual support and helps chaplains develop the skills necessary for ministry in diverse environments. SCA and its partners offer several options for serving chaplains to complete CPE through both online instruction and on-site residencies.

The Military Chaplain Division also works with the School of Military Spiritual Formation and the National Association of Certified Military Chaplains to offer mentoring and assistance in achieving board certification and in navigating the challenges at the intersection of the civilian and military worlds.

*"As the Army's resident experts in human multidimensionality and the human search for meaning, our Chaplains do not lead and minister from a position of irrelevance seeking relevancy, but from a place of enduring relevance seeking a greater and broader application."*

Chaplain (Major General) Thomas L. Solhjem, Chief of Chaplains, The State of the U.S. Army Corps, April 2023

**>> Information and contacts for the SCA Military Chaplain Division may be found here:**

**<https://www.spiritualcareassociation.org/divisions/military/>**



# Division of Pastoral Psychotherapy of the SPIRITUAL CARE ASSOCIATION

SCA's Division of Pastoral Psychotherapy integrates the principles of psychoanalytic theory into the practice of spiritual care.

This approach, also known as psychodynamic chaplaincy, draws from the work of Anton Boison, one of the founders of clinical pastoral education and the modern chaplaincy profession. A century ago, Boison established training methods to teach chaplains how to explore both conscious and unconscious dynamics in human relationships, and understand how past experiences shape present emotions and behaviors.

While Boison's integration of psychodynamic concepts into chaplaincy has had a lasting impact on the field, most chaplains have not received in-depth instruction in the way psychological processes impact spiritual crises. However, SCA and HCCN are seeing from their work in the field that chaplains are motivated to pursue more learning in this area and to understand the historical validity of this approach.

Our Division of Pastoral Psychotherapy seeks to connect the spiritual care field with these roots and, ultimately, deepen the practice of today's chaplains.

There is undeniable crossover between the worlds of mental health care and spiritual care. While chaplains have their own terminology such as "ministry of presence," therapists engage in "deep listening," their own way of maintaining presence with their clients.

Mental health care has also seen the emergence of spiritually-integrated psychotherapy, which invites spiritual reflection as part of the healing process and can be effective for individuals facing trauma, grief, or end-of-life issues. This has arisen with the accumulation of research showing that spiritual practice and engagement, from prayer to meditation to community participation, have a positive impact on mental health.

Just as mental health professionals must have some generalist knowledge of spiritual care to address the spiritual/religious/existential element of their patients' lives, so

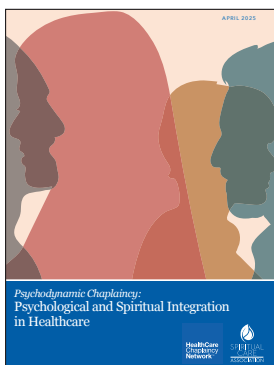


must chaplains have a basic understanding of psychological processes in their patients and clients to be fully effective. In their day-to-day work, chaplains serve people who are dealing with depression, anxiety, and other psychological difficulties.

Our Division of Pastoral Psychotherapy embraces the opportunity to cover these issues in depth to give chaplains a more solid grounding from which to respond. Chaplains trained in psychodynamic principles can also assist in early detection of depressive and anxiety disorders and facilitate the referral of patients in need to mental health professionals.

### **The Division of Pastoral Psychotherapy offers all the benefits of our other divisions and focuses on developing research-based curriculum to help chaplains:**

- Understand and apply the terminology and approach of psychodynamic chaplaincy as based in psychoanalytic theory and the historical roots of clinical pastoral education
- Listen deeply, empathize, reflect, analyze problems, and identify and evaluate human behavior and religious symbols for their meaning and significance
- Establish an empathetic and therapeutic bond with persons in various life circumstances
- Understand of the dynamics of group behavior and a variety of group relations
- Understand one's own professional and spiritual development
- Work with mental health providers and other members of interdisciplinary teams



This foundational paper covers the essentials of psychodynamic chaplaincy and is serving as a basis for new curriculum for chaplains who wish to extend their knowledge in the psychotherapeutic aspects of spiritual care.



# Corporate Chaplain Division of the SPIRITUAL CARE ASSOCIATION

The mission of SCA's Corporate Chaplain Division is to advance the provision of multi-faith spiritual care in the workplace.

To elevate the role of the corporate chaplains, SCA has established academic and professional criteria for the practice of this specialization. These criteria help to ensure that skilled, effective chaplains and every person providing spiritual care and consultation in workplace settings meet professional standards.

## **Responsibilities of a corporate chaplain may include:**

- Providing spiritual care to individuals in the context of their employment, with respect to the diversity – cultural, religious, or otherwise – of the workforce being served
- Helping employees address work-life concerns such as job stress, coworker relations, and career direction
- Consulting with management about issues affecting employee and company well-being, such as organizational change, ethical challenges, conflict resolution, team development, and outplacement
- Leading first responder teams in the context of critical incidents in the workplace
- Responding to the family-related needs of individual employees as they arise



**As with our other Divisions, joining the Corporate Chaplain Division offers the following benefits:**

- Scholarships totaling 10% of tuition towards an advanced degree from Capstone University
- The Chaplain Connection – online resource center and community
- Reduced price for online professional education courses
- Free Chaplain Master Class and other resources
- Membership in SCA's Communities of Chaplains for ongoing professional, personal and spiritual development
- Discounted registration for annual Caring for the Human Spirit® Conference
- Electronic subscription to Journal of HealthCare Chaplaincy
- Regular Spiritual Care Updates
- Membership Directory
- Networking opportunities

**>> Learn more here:**

**<https://www.spiritualcareassociation.org/divisions/corporate/>**



HCCN and SCA supply the only research-based curriculum for clinical pastoral education (CPE), which is utilized by our teaching partner, the Institute for Clinical Pastoral Training (ICPT), to educate chaplaincy students and others seeking training in pastoral care. Each year, ICPT teaches more than 600 students on their way to careers in chaplaincy and other caring professions.

CPE students – including chaplains in training, clergy, seminarians, nurses, social workers, and volunteers in hospitals and hospice – are taught to observe, listen, communicate and effectively attend to patients’ and families’ spiritual and emotional needs.

Through hands-on practice, clinical supervision and academic study, CPE students are trained in assessing and treating spiritual distress; helping individuals complete advance directives; supporting medical and other staff; providing bereavement support; and many other topics.

CPE is invaluable training for working with people of all ages and backgrounds who are coping with profound challenges and transitions in their lives.

**The Institute for Clinical Pastoral Training** provides online CPE that enables individuals to participate from any location. The program offers instructor-led group learning and allows students to perform required clinical hours at conveniently-located health care institutions.

In January 2019, ICPT received full accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training ([www.accet.org](http://www.accet.org)), a U.S. Dept. of Education-recognized accrediting agency.

ICPT is accredited to offer CPE Units 1-4 and CPE Supervisor-in-Training (SIT) Units 1-4, with each of these Units consisting of 400 hours. Through the partnership with HCCN and SCA, ICPT delivers its 400-hour accredited CPE programs in a hybrid learning format.

The partnership was established to integrate HCCN's 40+ years of real-world CPE experience into ICPT's award-winning learning management platform. This collaboration is designed to improve student learning outcomes while simplifying ICPT Supervisors' efforts to integrate current CPE events into instruction.

The program's CPE students also receive the support of the HCCN and SCA community of health care and spiritual care providers, which connects members around the world through social media, virtual conferences, and in-person events. These connections foster valuable networking, idea sharing and inspiration that helps enrich CPE teaching and learning.



>> <https://spiritualcareassociation.org/clinical-pastoral-education-cpe/>

# On-Site Chaplaincy

Chaplains trained and supported by HealthCare Chaplaincy Network and the Spiritual Care Association provide person-to-person care for patients, their loved ones, and medical staff at health care facilities across the country.

**HCCN is also a leader in building, staffing, and administering spiritual care departments. Organizations where we have provided on-site chaplaincy services include:**

- Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, NY
- St. Mary's Hospital for Children, Queens, NY
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
- St. Mary's Center, New York, NY
- University Hospital, Newark, NJ
- NYU Langone Medical Center, New York, NY
- Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI
- The Miriam Hospital, Providence, RI
- Hasbro Children's Hospital, Providence, RI
- Newport Hospital, Newport RI

Our work to train and provide chaplains for hospitals, hospice, outpatient facilities, in first response situations, and elsewhere remains at the heart of our mission. In all these situations, chaplains nurture the spiritual strengths of people faced with profound challenges such as illness, grief, and major life transitions, to help individuals find comfort and new meaning during life's defining moments.

## The Chaplain's Role on Interdisciplinary Health Care Teams

As the spiritual care specialists on health care teams, professional chaplains receive extensive clinical and academic training to care for people of all faiths and backgrounds, including those unaffiliated with any faith tradition. The care that chaplains provide requires active listening, respect, empathy, strong communication skills, and understanding of the patient's life context and preferences.

For patients and their loved ones – at the time of difficult news, or in the midst of physical, emotional, or spiritual pain – a chaplain's presence can relieve fear and isolation, clarify goals of care, and align health care decisions with patient values. Chaplains are patient advocates in the truest sense.

### In addition to this one-to-one care, our chaplains

- Educate medical staff in recognizing and responding to patients' and families' spiritual care needs
- Develop stress reduction programs for medical and other staff
- Participate in palliative care rounds and on palliative care, ethics and other hospital committees
- Lead support groups on bereavement, addiction, meditation and other subjects
- Lead interfaith services and arrange holiday events for people of different faiths

**>> [www.healthcarechlaincy.org/on-site-chaplaincy-services](http://www.healthcarechlaincy.org/on-site-chaplaincy-services)**

# Support for Hospital Spiritual Care Programs & Spiritual Care beyond Hospital Walls



## Excellence in Spiritual Care Award

A prestigious recognition opportunity that highlights the commitment of hospitals, hospices and other health organizations to best practices in spiritual care, with consultation from HCCN to establish and meet spiritual care goals

## General Consulting Services

Helping health care institutions provide the highest-quality spiritual care to improve patient outcomes and satisfaction, staff morale and retention, cultural competency, and palliative and end-of-life care



## HCCN-TV

Ten programs rich in educational and inspirational content for use on hospital television systems and in other health care settings



## Telechaplaincy

Person-to-person care via phone, email or video call through a chaplain-staffed helpline for people seeking spiritual and emotional support from any location



## Spiritual Care Websites

Web resources for people living with cancer, veterans & military families, & the general public, available for co-branding by health care organizations:

*ChatWithaChaplain.org, CantBelieveIHaveCancer.org, ChaplainCareforVeterans.org, & SoulCareProject.org*



## Currently, 60 healthcare institutions in 20 states are utilizing our consulting and resources:

**CALIFORNIA:** VA San Diego Healthcare System, Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula, San Antonio Regional Medical Center, Children’s Hospital of Orange County

**DELAWARE:** Bayhealth, Kent General Hospital Bayhealth, Milford Memorial Hospital

**FLORIDA:** Baycare, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Florida Hospital Celebration Health, University of Florida Health, Memorial Healthcare System

**GEORGIA:** WellStar Cobb Hospital

**IDAHO:** Portneuf Medical Center

**INDIANA:** Eskenazi Health, Hancock Health

**KENTUCKY:** St. Elizabeth Edgewood, St. Elizabeth Florence, St. Elizabeth Fort Thomas

**LOUISIANA:** Willis-Knighton Health System: Willis-Knighton Bossier, Willis-Knighton Center for Women’s Health, Willis Knighton Pierremonth, Willis-Knighton Rehabilitation, Willis-Knighton South

**MARYLAND:** Adventist Health

**MICHIGAN:** VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, Beaumont

**MISSOURI:** St. Louis Children’s Hospital

**NEBRASKA:** Methodist Hospital

**NEW JERSEY:** Bayonne MC Carepoint, Shore Medical Center, The Valley Hospital, University Hospital

**NEW YORK:** The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Hospital for Special Surgery, Northwell South Bay, Northwell South Nassau, NYU Langone, Peconic Bay Medical Center, Richmond University Medical Center, St. Mary’s Center, St. Mary’s Hospital for Children, Mount Sinai Medical Center, Vassar Bros. Medical Center, North General, St. Luke’s Hospital

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Sanford Health System

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Abington Memorial Hospital, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, University of Pennsylvania, UPMC Pinnacle Cancer Institute, UPMC Pinnacle Harrisburg, Evangelical Community Hospital, Mount Nittany Medical Center

**RHODE ISLAND:** Lifespan Health System: Rhode Island Hospital, Hasbro Children’s Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, Newport Hospital

**TENNESSEE:** Trezevant Episcopal Retirement Community

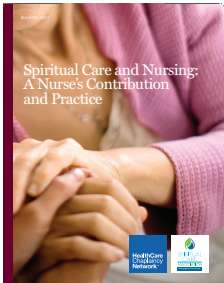
**UTAH:** Primary Children’s Hospital Intermountain Healthcare

**WISCONSIN:** Aurora Baycare Medical Center

>> <https://healthcarechaplancy.org/institutions-we-serve/>

# Publications

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network and Spiritual Care Association develop and disseminate numerous publications to advance our field and support chaplains and other health care professionals in increasing their spiritual care knowledge and skills. The following are examples of our growing library of resources.



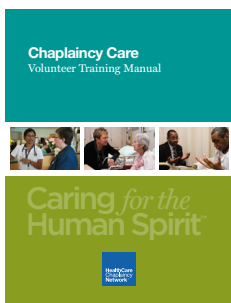
## Foundational Papers on Spiritual Care

HCCN and SCA have published extensively-researched white papers for chaplains, nurses, physicians, social workers, and health care administrators. These focus on the role that each discipline has to play in ensuring a path for spiritual care in all situations of patient and family need, and on self-care for all individuals in demanding health professions. Each is fully referenced and supported with the latest underlying research evidence. We will continue to develop new white papers in areas where clarification is needed to support best spiritual care practice.



## Caring for the Human Spirit Magazine

This magazine, published by HCCN, offers a unique and rich mix of articles on topics of interest to all health professionals interested in advancing the integration of spiritual care in health care. With each issue, chaplains, nurses, physicians, researchers and others write about best practices, strategies, and research to enhance practice, improve patient satisfaction, and offer inspiration to professionals as well as to patients, family caregivers, and other loved ones.

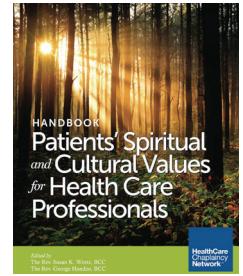


## Volunteer Training Manual

Well-trained volunteers expand the reach of chaplaincy in tightly budgeted (and often understaffed) spiritual care departments. This popular manual provides valuable guidance for chaplain directors on developing effective volunteers who can support chaplains' work by providing companionship and other assistance for patients and their families.

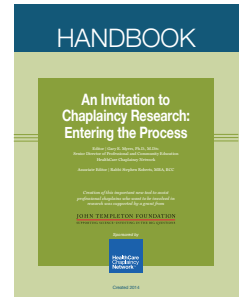
## Handbook of Patient's Spiritual and Cultural Values for Health Care Professionals

Because we encounter patients and families of different faith and cultural backgrounds, this handbook serves as an easy-to-use guide toward understanding the beliefs and practices generally found within a particular cultural or religious group.



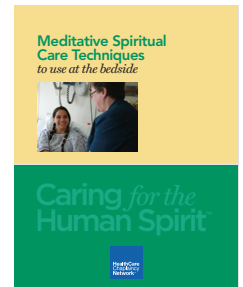
## An Invitation to Chaplaincy Research: Entering the Process

This handbook explores how the chaplain profession, through research, can establish vital links between chaplaincy care practices and the growing expectation that health care providers demonstrate the value of their practices. The handbook is both an invitation and challenge to the profession to contribute to the growth, effectiveness and longevity of chaplaincy by increasing its research literacy and by supporting or participating in research opportunities.



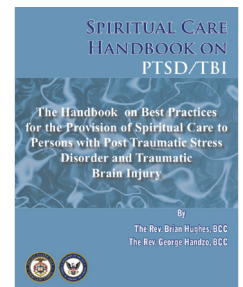
## Meditative Spiritual Techniques

HCCN's informative and portable Meditative Spiritual Care Techniques brochure adds to the chaplaincy tool box and is designed for use at the bedside. For both generalist and specialist spiritual care providers, there are a number of spiritual techniques that can be employed with patients who have chronic and serious illness and their caregivers. By incorporating meditative prayer, scriptural-focused prayer, relaxation response and healing rituals, chaplains and others can guide individuals with these techniques and help them create a sustained practice.



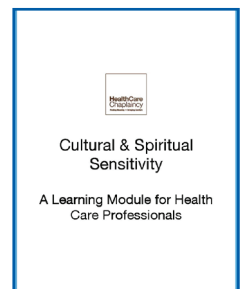
## Spiritual Care Handbook on PTSD/TBI

This is the first handbook on Best Practices for the Provision of Spiritual Care to Persons with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury – produced by the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and authored by HealthCare Chaplaincy. The handbook provides information on PTSD and TBI and in-depth instruction on numerous spiritual care interventions for these conditions.



## Cultural & Spiritual Sensitivity: A Learning Module for Health Care Professionals

Widely used for nursing and physician continuing education, this self-learning module assists health care professionals in (1) Identifying and acknowledging one's own cultural and spiritual heritage and how it impacts one's attitudes in providing care; (2) describing the components of culture and spirituality; and (3) demonstrating appropriate cultural and spiritual sensitivity in one's approach to providing care.



>> To order, please write to [comm@healthcarechaplaincy.org](mailto:comm@healthcarechaplaincy.org).

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) is a nonprofit organization with national and global reach, dedicated to fully integrating the intentional care of the human spirit in all health care settings. HCCN is raising the bar for excellence in spiritual care and helping others deliver effective care through multiple channels. With a mission encompassing person-to-person care, education and research, HCCN is leading the spiritual care field by improving the practice of chaplaincy, expanding its reach, and teaching other health professionals to recognize and respond to patients' spiritual needs.

The Spiritual Care Association (SCA), HCCN's nonprofit affiliate, is committed to building a well-trained and credentialed international workforce of multidisciplinary professionals to foster the full integration of spiritual care in the health care arena. SCA is the first professional membership association for all spiritual care providers that establishes and integrates evidence-based quality indicators, scope of practice, and a knowledge base for spiritual care. SCA also advocates for the inclusion of spiritual care in health care at the local, national, and international level.

Capstone University is an interfaith institution that develops forward-thinking leaders and practitioners of spiritual care. Capstone trains chaplains, nurses, social workers, physicians, clergy, mental health professionals, first responders, educators, and others to provide spiritual care to more effectively alleviate the suffering of their patients, clients, and congregants. It offers accredited online graduate degrees in Spiritual Care, Psychospirituality, Chaplaincy, Spiritual Care Nursing, Spiritual Direction, Pastoral Ministry, and Thanatology, and certificate programs in related areas.



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