

“Journeying Together: Partnership with Congregational Caregivers”

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Spiritual Care Partnership Certificate Program

This clinical ministry program is specifically designed for lay spiritual caregivers. It focuses on the integration of the individual’s faith journey and lived experience with the role of a spiritual caregiver. Didactic presentations, outside reading, ecumenical/interfaith worship and peer group interaction offer participants the opportunity to gain

- Techniques to increase effectiveness in the delivery of spiritual care.
- Awareness of how one’s personal history and faith journey inform spiritual caregiving.
- Knowledge of basic clinical and ethical constructs as they relate to healthcare.
- A sense of community with peers and with the Mission and Spiritual Care staff.

The ten-week course seeks to create a community in which to pursue shared inquiry into the clinical components of spiritual caregiving and how one’s personal faith journey influences the provision of spiritual care. The first class begins with worship in which Mission and Spiritual Care staff and course participants acknowledge the founding faith traditions of Advocate Health Care and create covenant for mutual support. The program coordinator reviews the elements of prayers of thanksgiving/praise, and students collaborate to write a group prayer, which they use to open the next class. The coordinator assigns prayer partners, who then have the responsibility of composing an opening prayer for succeeding classes.

Course content focuses first on self-awareness and explores how one’s lived experiences influence delivery of spiritual care (Weeks 2-3). The six clinical presentations focus on the provision of spiritual care in specific instances and also include resources for referrals (Weeks 4-9). The concluding class completes the circle by focusing on the importance of self-care and providing an opportunity to reflect on the group’s time together. This class ends with worship in which the Mission and Spiritual Care staff formally recognizes and celebrates students’ successful completion of the curriculum and their partnership as spiritual caregivers.

Good Shepherd chaplains teach the classes, which meet for two hours per week. Prospective students are required to obtain endorsement from their congregational clergy. Class size is limited to sixteen. The Office for Mission and Spiritual Care has deliberately set tuition at a low rate of \$25, as Good Shepherd Hospital considers the Spiritual Care Partnership Certificate Program as outreach to the faith communities in the hospital’s service area. This fee covers all materials, including the supplementary readings.

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Spiritual Care Partnership Certificate Program – Syllabus

Through the following presentations	And supplemental readings	Participants will gain
Learning the Art of Listening	<i>The Gift to Listen, The Courage to Hear</i> Cari Jackson	Increased awareness of the different types of listening and how these affect relationships.
Providing Family-centered Spiritual Care	<i>Spiritual Family Trees</i> Barbara Wendland and Larry Easterling	Increased knowledge of family systems and how they affect the delivery of spiritual care.
Recognizing Mental and Emotional Disorders	<i>Depression</i> <i>A Story of Bipolar Disorder</i> National Institute of Mental Health	Increased knowledge of symptoms of frequently encountered disorders, including addiction, and resources for providing spiritual care.
Ministering within the Cycle of Domestic Violence	<i>When Violence Begins at Home</i> (Chapters 1, 8, 11) K. J. Wilson	Knowledge of the prevalence as well as the indications of domestic violence and resources for assisting victims.
Giving Voice to Illness Narratives	<i>At the Will of the Body</i> Arthur W. Frank	Awareness of clinical realities of illness in contrast to the stories individuals tell and of the need to acknowledge one's own stories in order to be present to others.
Walking in the Wilderness of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia	<i>Talking to Alzheimer's</i> Claudia J. Strauss	Awareness of the possibility for spiritual connection with sufferers of dementia in its various forms as well as guidance for providing spiritual care to individuals and their family members.
Coping with Grief and Loss	<i>Good Grief</i> Granger Westberg	Understanding of the grief process and the value of Psalms of lament as a vehicle for articulating loss.
Facing the End of Life	<i>Hard Choices for Loving People</i> <i>Light in the Shadows</i> Hank Dunn	Knowledge of basic ethical constructs and advance care planning as they relate to end-of-life issues.
Caring for Oneself and Reflecting on the Group's Time Together	<i>The Wounded Healer</i> Henri Nouwen	Awareness of the importance of self-care, including recognition of and ways to process personal grief arising out of ministry to others.

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