

## Chaplains in Interfaith Dialogue

Often Chaplaincy departments embody diversity, but interfaith differences remain unexplored. Participants in this workshop will participate in or observe brief practices or ceremonies from different religious traditions. These rituals will reflect real practices of patients or clients and will be presented authentically during the workshop. Through participation in a small process group, participants will learn an innovative skill-based model for dialogue.

As a result of this workshop, participants will **develop multi-cultural competency through:**

1. Gaining knowledge about diverse and meaningful practices of some patients/clients while being introduced to the larger diversity of these groups.
2. Hearing panelists from different religious traditions discuss **“What I wish chaplains knew about serving people from my faith tradition.”**
3. Experiencing a process group guided by the **“Rights, Responsibilities and Skills of Dialogue,”** a skill-based rubric for interfaith dialogue developed by the *Seminarians Interacting* program of the National Conference for Community and Justice (formerly the National Association of Christians and Jews) and exploring the difficulties of dialogue. Please see attachment.
4. Learning theoretical and conceptual approaches to multicultural collaboration and service as it is relevant to chaplaincy.

### Facilitators:

**Rabbi Naomi Kalish** is an ACPE Supervisor at St. Luke’s – Roosevelt Hospital and the HealthCare Chaplaincy. She is the founder and convener of the ACPE Jewish Supervisors Network. Naomi is an NAJC Board Certified Chaplain, serving NAJC as a Board Member, the Chair of the New York Region, the Co-Chair of the CPE Committee, and a member of the Certification Commission. Naomi published “Encountering the Other: Making Space for Learning” in *Reflective Practice: Formation & Supervision in Ministry*. She won the Len Cedarleaf Award for her theology paper. Naomi is a doctoral candidate at New York University in Education and Jewish Studies. She participated in *Seminarians Interacting* in 1994 and served as an intern and then Assistant Director from 1996 – 1998.

**Tom Chirdo** is an ACPE Supervisory Candidate at North Shore University Hospital and the HealthCare Chaplaincy. He is an NACC Board Certified Chaplain. Tom worked as the Director of Pastoral Care at Inova Loudoun Hospital in Leesburg, VA from 2001 – 2006. He participated in *Seminarians Interacting* from 1997 – 1999. He earned a Diversity and Social Justice Practitioner Certificate in 2006.

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### Rights, Responsibilities, and Skills of Dialogue<sup>1</sup>

<b>Rights</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Skills</b>
1. Each person has the right to define him/herself without being labeled by others.	1. Each person must be willing to seriously question his/her assumptions about 'the other'	1. Each person should be able to evaluate and articulate his/her own attitudes, values and positions on issues within the context of his/her tradition
2. Each person has the right to express his or her beliefs, ideas and feelings	2. Each person must allow the same right of self-expression that s/he expects for him/herself	2. Each person should learn how to be more sensitive to what the other is saying
3. Each person has the right to ask questions that help him/her understand what someone else has said	3. Each person should ask questions that respect the other's right of self-definition, even in times of conflict or disagreement	3. Each person should learn how to respond to questions in ways that help others understand
4. Each person has the right not to change or be forced to change	4. Each person must accept the others as equal partners in the dialogue, and acknowledge the dignity of the traditions represented	4. Each person should learn to deal with different points of view while maintaining his/her own integrity
5. Each person has the right to expect that what is said will be held in confidence	5. Each person must agree to hold what others say in confidence	5. Each person should learn to deal with others from a position of mutual trust, based on an expectation that others come to the dialogue in a spirit of honesty and sincerity

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<sup>1</sup> Patrice Brodeur, "Description of the 'Guidelines for Interfaith Celebrations,'" in *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol 34, number 4 (Fall 1997), pp. 559 and 560. The above RRS is the result of several years of dialogue practice by Seminarians (Jews, Christians, and Muslims) in a program entitled Seminarians Interacting sponsored by the NCCJ (National Conference for Community and Justice) since 1984.