

Association of Professional Chaplains



Equipping the Members
Empowering the Profession

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Association of Professional Chaplains

As Partners with Faith in Their Mission

In May, 1998, the College of Chaplains and the Association of Mental Health Clergy combined more than 50 years of history for each organization to form the Association of Professional Chaplains

Mission

- The Association of Professional Chaplains is a multifaith association established to certify and serve its membership and to promote professional chaplaincy.

Vision

- The vision of the Association of Professional Chaplains is to be the leading membership organization for professional chaplains integrating multicultural and multiethnic perspectives and promoting excellence.

Values

- Professional competency and ethical practice
- Faith as an essential dimension of wholeness
- Dignity and worth of all persons
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Justice and equality for all
- Spiritual care of persons, communities, organizations, and systems

APC Membership

- Board Certified, Provisional Certified, and Associate Chaplains - 2,324
- Affiliates – 479
- Student Affiliates - 465
- Retired Members - 546
- The Class of 2005 - Over 265!

Joining the APC

Membership Categories

- Board Certified Chaplain
- Provisional Certified Chaplain
- Associate Chaplain
- Affiliate
- Student Affiliate

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Professional Resources

- ***The APC News***

A bi-monthly newsletter, providing timely information on Association events and activities, as well as feature articles

- ***Chaplaincy Today***

The Journal of the APC, offers feature articles, research and personal experience stories on current issues and trends in pastoral care

- ***The Journal of Pastoral Care***

Features articles and research on cutting edge pastoral care issues

- ***www.professionalchaplains.org***

The APC Web Site, offers an interactive resource where you can find everything from how to become a member to current articles and research on pastoral care

Common Perceptions & Reality of Provision of Professional Chaplains in the United States Today

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Religious Beliefs

- 94% of people describe God as loving
- 88% of people say they feel close to God

Galek K, Flannelly KJ, Weaver AJ, Vane A. (2005) How Americans See God. *Spirituality & Health*, Vol.8(3), 27.

Religious Practice

- 98% of adult Americans pray at least once a week
- 56% say they pray every day
- 85% say they read the Bible or Qur'an at least once a month.

Summary of the 2002 General Social Survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center, American Religion Data Archive (www.thearda.com)

Religious Practice

- There is no doubt about the numerous benefits of prayer and spirituality.... These benefits are helpful and healing in the deepest sense of the term.

Cassileth BR. (1998) *The Alternative Medicine Handbook*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

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Religion & Coping

- When facing a crisis, persons often turn to their spirituality as a means of coping.

Pargament K. (1997) *The Psychology of Religion and Coping: Theory, Research, Practice*. New York: Guilford Publications.

Religion & Coping

- In a study of 337 hospital patients, nearly 90% reported using religion to some degree to cope
- More than 40% indicated that religion was the most important factor that kept them going.

Koenig HG. "Religious attitudes and practices of hospitalized medically ill older adults. *Int J Psychiatry Med.* 1998;49:1717-1722.

Religion & Coping

In one study, only 42% of hospitalized patients could identify a spiritual counselor to whom they could turn.

Sivan A, Fitchett G, Burton L. Hospitalized Psychiatric and Medical Patients and the Clergy. *Journal of Religion and Health*. 1996, 36(3), 455-467.

Multi Faith Ministry

Religion is an organized system of beliefs, practices, rituals, and symbols designated

(a) to facilitate closeness to the sacred or transcendent (God, higher power, or ultimate truth/reality) and

(b) to foster understanding of one's relationship and responsibility to others living in a community.

Koenig HG, McCollough ME, Larson DB. (2001) *Handbook of Religion and Health*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Multi Faith Ministry

Spirituality is the personal quest for understanding answers to ultimate questions about life, about meaning and about relationship to the sacred or transcendent, which may (or may not) lead to or arise from the development of religious rituals and the formation of community.

Koenig HG, McCollough ME, Larson DB. (2001) *Handbook of Religion and Health*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Chaplain's Role

- Reach across faith group boundaries and do not proselytize
- Provide supportive spiritual care
- Serve as a member of the care team
- Lead religious ceremonies

VandeCreek L, Burton L. (2001) *Professional Chaplaincy: Its Role and Importance in Healthcare.*

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Chaplain's Role

- Lead or participate in healthcare ethics programs
- Educate the healthcare team and community
- Act as mediator and reconciler
- Serve as contact person for complementary therapies

VandeCreek L, Burton L. (2001) *Professional Chaplaincy: Its Role and Importance in Healthcare.*

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Chaplain's Role

Hospital administrators* agree that chaplains have six major roles in the hospital setting

Flannelly KJ, Handzo GF, Weaver AJ, Smith WJ. (2005), A national survey of health care administrators' views on the importance of various chaplain roles. *The Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*, 59(1-2), 87-96.

Flannelly KJ, Handzo GF, Galek K, Weaver AJ, Overvold JA. (in press). A national survey of hospital directors' views about the importance of various chaplain roles: Differences among disciplines and types of hospitals. *The Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*.

* Including Hospital CEO's and Medical, Nursing, Social Services and Pastoral Care Directors

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Chaplain's Roles in Descending Order of Priority

- Addressing issues of grief and death
- Praying with patients and family members
- Providing emotional support for patients, family and staff

Flannelly KJ, Handzo GF, Weaver AJ, Smith WJ. (2005), A national survey of health care administrators' views on the importance of various chaplain roles. *The Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*, 59(1-2), 87-96.

Flannelly KJ, Handzo GF, Galek K, Weaver AJ, Overvold JA. (in press). A national survey of hospital directors' views about the importance of various chaplain roles: Differences among disciplines and types of hospitals. *The Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*.

Chaplain's Roles in Descending Order of Priority

- Performing community outreach
- Providing consultation and advocacy
- Performing religious rituals and services

Flannelly, KJ, Handzo GF, Weaver AJ, Smith WJ. (2005), A national survey of health care administrators' views on the importance of various chaplain roles. *The Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*, 59(1-2), 87-96.

Flannelly KJ, Handzo GF, Galek K, Weaver AJ, Overvold JA. (in press). A national survey of hospital directors' views about the importance of various chaplain roles: Differences among disciplines and types of hospitals. *The Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*.

Barriers

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Barriers to Spiritual Care

- In a national survey, only about 30 of general hospitals employed certified chaplains.

Flannelly KJ, Handzo GF, Weaver AJ. (2004) Factors Affecting Health Care Chaplaincy and the Provision of Pastoral Care in the United States. *Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*. Vol. 58 (1-2), 123-126.

Barriers to Spiritual Care

- Health care teams have body specialists and mind specialists, but no spiritual specialists

Barriers to Spiritual Care

- Lack of appreciation for the difference between professional chaplains and community clergy

Barriers to Spiritual Care

- In proposed regulations for hospice care specific credentials are required for practitioners of every core service except spiritual care.

Federal Register, May 27, 2005, Vol. 70, Number 102.

Barriers to Spiritual Care

- Poor timing, lack of training, and discomfort with the subject matter are barriers to effective spiritual assessments.

Evaluating your Spiritual Assessment Process. *The Source*. 2005(February), JCAHO.

Barriers to Spiritual Care

An Understanding that:

- The certification process creates the profession
- It is time for professional chaplains to claim this identity and role

Barriers to Spiritual Care

- Common Standards and Competencies for Certification
 - An agreement among all of the organizations certifying clergy or others to abide by and use a common set of standards and competencies to define the profession.

Barriers to Spiritual Care

- Common Standards of Best Practice
 - Develop and share a compendium of best practices for pastoral/spiritual care departments
 - Including the qualifications for those who are employed in the groups
 - Provision of and adherence to adequate regulations

Current Initiatives

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Recent Initiatives

Cabinet of Liaisons

- American College of Healthcare Executives
- American Hospital Association
- American Medical Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Red Cross
- George Washington Institute on Spirituality and Health
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

Recent Initiatives

Council on Collaboration

- Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)
- Association of Professional Chaplains (APC)
- Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education (CAPPE/ACPEP)
- National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC)
- National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC)
- American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC)