

# **European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy**

## **Constitution**

### **1. Name**

The name of the organisation shall be The European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy (ENHCC).

### **2. Language**

The official language of the Network is English

### **3. Purpose**

The purpose of ENHCC is to promote and integrate a high quality standard of chaplaincy in healthcare in Europe by:

- working for the development of professional guidelines required to care for the existential, spiritual and religious needs of patients, relatives and staff, drawing on personal, religious, cultural and community resources.
- enabling its participants to share and learn from one another.

### **4. Participants**

Participation in the Network shall be open to representatives from faiths, churches and national associations who support and provide spiritual care in health care settings and who affiliate with ENHCC. Each affiliated faith group, church or national association may appoint more than one representative to participate in the activities of ENHCC but shall have only one vote for any motion or resolution brought before consultations and meetings. Affiliated bodies shall be asked to contribute a participation fee as shall be fixed from time to time by the ENHCC Committee.

### **5. Associate Participants**

Those who do not officially represent faiths, churches, and national associations may be approved and appointed by the Network Committee as Associate Participants and may take part in the activities of the Network but may not vote in consultations or serve on the committee.

### **6. Honorary Participants**

The Network may appoint Honorary Participants who in the past have given service to ENHCC. They may take part in the activities of the Network but may not vote in consultations or serve on the committee.

### **7. Meetings**

ENHCC shall hold a Consultation Meeting, to which all participants, associate participants and honorary participants are invited, not less than every two years. Other meetings and activities may from time to time be arranged by the Committee.

### **8. Administration of the Network**

The Network shall be administered by a committee elected by secret ballot at a consultation of the ENHCC. The committee should broadly represent the participants and seek gender balance.

The Committee shall consist of seven members:

Elected are:

- A Coordinator who shall hold office for a period of four years and may be elected for a further two years. If the coordinator for any reason cannot continue to serve, the Committee shall appoint a substitute coordinator.
- Three ordinary committee members, who shall serve for two years and may be elected for another term.

Furthermore:

- A committee member proposed by ERICH with approval of the committee of the ENHCC, who shall serve for two years and may be proposed for another term.
- The organiser of the next consultation.
- And a treasurer who will be nominated by the committee and approved at the plenary session of the consultation for a period of two years. The treasurer can be reappointed every two years as long as all parties agree.

Two members of the committee shall represent the ENHCC on the board of the European Research Institute on Chaplaincy in HealthCare (ERICH) after being approved by that board.

A webmaster is nominated by the committee.

## **9. Finance**

The Network shall authorise the Treasurer to make payments for operational expenses and to further the purposes of the ENHCC. There will be yearly audit by an external competent authority. A statement of accounts shall be sent to the members of the committee at intervals of not less than 6 months and an annual statement of accounts sent to all participants.

## **10. Changes to the constitution**

The constitution may be changed with the approval, by a two thirds majority of those present and voting, at a consultation of ENHCC providing that notice has been given to all participants of the proposed change not less than 3 months before the meeting.

## **11. Dissolution**

ENHCC may be dissolved with the approval by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a consultation meeting, providing that notice has been given to all participants of the proposed dissolution not less than 3 months before the meeting. Any property and funds then held by ENHCC shall be given to another organisation or organisations with a similar purpose.

***Approved by the 17<sup>th</sup> Consultation of the European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy at the Orthodox Academy, Crete (Greece), 14 May 2022***