

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL CHAPLAINS™ ANNOUNCES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Schaumburg, IL, Nov. 1, 2015 – The Association of Professional Chaplains™ (APC™), a national multifaith organization of chaplaincy care providers, has announced elections and appointments to its board of directors, effective November 1.

Dr. Margie Atkinson BCC has been named president. Elected to the office of APC™ president-elect in 2013, Dr. Atkinson begins her one-year term as president of the association, which has over 5,000 members. Its affiliate, the Board of Chaplaincy Certification Inc. (BCCI) is the chief interfaith certifying body of the chaplaincy profession.

“Our membership is growing and diverse, yet our common commitment is to caring for the wholeness of persons in health care, military, corrections, police and fire, and other specialized settings,” says Dr. Atkinson.

Dr. Atkinson serves as director of Pastoral Care/Palliative Care and Ethics for Morton Plant Mease Health Care, part of BayCare Health System in Clearwater, FL. She holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry degree from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. Endorsed by Baptist General Convention of Texas, she has been a BCCI board certified chaplain since 2002. She has served APC™ as a state and local leader, 2011 conference chair, board member, secretary and president-elect.

The Reverend Kimberly Murman MDiv MBA BCC has been named president-elect. Rev. Murman is the Spiritual Care ACPE senior manager for Banner Desert Medical Center and Cardon Children’s Medical Center in Mesa, AZ. She has served APC™ as board member, secretary, treasurer, Finance Committee chair, Education Committee chair, and as chair/co-chair of the Workshops Committees for the 2006 and 2007 annual conferences. She holds an MDiv from Colgate Rochester Divinity Schools and an MBA/Healthcare from the University of Phoenix. Murman has been a BCCI board certified chaplain since 2003 and is endorsed by the Presbyterian Church USA. She will serve one-year terms as president-elect and president.

The Reverend Martha H. Rucker MDiv BCC has been named treasurer. Rev. Rucker is a staff chaplain for Saint Thomas Health, Clarksville, TN. Endorsed by the Disciples of Christ, she has been a BCCI board certified chaplain since 2006. She is a graduate of Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. She has served APC™ as board member, secretary, Personnel Committee chair, Finance Committee member and Commission on Professional Ethics chair. She will serve one-year terms as treasurer, president-elect and president.

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Rev. Ronald C. Oliver PhD ThM MDiv BCC has been elected secretary. Dr. Oliver is the system vice president, Mission and Outreach, of Norton Healthcare, Louisville, KY. He is endorsed by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and has been board certified by BCCI since 1996. He holds PhD, ThM and MDiv degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been a member of the APC™ Board of Directors since 2012, serving as Quality in Chaplaincy Care Committee member and Education Committee board liaison. He previously served as the 2010 Conference Plenary Speakers chair. In addition, he currently serves on the Board of Advisors of WaterStep and the Advisory Board of the Young Professionals of Louisville, and formerly served on the Wayne E. Oates Institute Board of Directors. He is a member of the American Red Cross Disaster Spiritual Care Administration Team and has been deployed on several large-scale disasters. Following his term as secretary, he will proceed to treasurer, then president-elect and finally president, holding each office for one year.

Chaplain Mark LaRocca-Pitts PhD BCC has been elected to the APC™ Board of Directors. LaRocca-Pitts has served as a professional chaplain for 17 years and currently serves as a hospice chaplain with Crossroads Hospice of Atlanta. In addition, he is an adjunct professor at Candler School of Theology in Pastoral Care. He has been BCCI board certified since 2006 and is endorsed by the United Methodist Church. He has served in various leadership roles with APC, including state representative of Georgia, chair of the History Committee, chair of the Communications Committee, on the Quality in Chaplaincy Care Committee, and on the task forces for Standards of Practice in Acute Care, in Long-Term Care, and the Integrated Standards of Practice. Mark received his MA in Religious Studies from Indiana University, his MDiv from Harvard Divinity School, and his PhD from Harvard University.

Also serving on the board of directors are BCCI Representative Joseph Perez MDiv BCC, Valley Baptist Health System, Harlingen, TX; Rev. Dr. Jeffery T. Garland DMin EdS BCC, Barnabas Health Hospice and Palliative Care Center; West Orange, NJ; Rev. Dr. Daniel H. Grosseohme BCC, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH; Rev. Dr. Janet R. McCormack BCC, Denver Seminary, Denver, CO; Rev. Jeffery N. Murphy MDiv BCC, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS; Rev. Floyd G. O'Bryan BCC, retired; Rev. John Simon MDiv MTS BCC, Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla, NY; Jana Troutman-Miller MA BCC, Saint John's on the Lake, Milwaukee, WI; and Ex-Officio Member Patricia F. Appelhans JD, CEO of APC™.

About the Association of Professional Chaplains™

The Association of Professional Chaplains™ is a multifaith association established to promote quality chaplaincy care through advocacy, education, professional standards and service to its members. Members who are providers of chaplaincy care are endorsed by their faith groups to serve persons in need in diverse settings throughout the world. The membership of APC™ represents more than 500 faith groups. The association and its members embrace the following 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

A national, not-for-profit professional society, APC™ advocates for quality spiritual care of all persons as an essential dimension of total care and services provided by public and private institutions and organizations.