



Front Porch Chat

Hello I am Kimberly Murman, Board President for APC, with a new quarterly communication to keep you in the loop with what the Board and Executive Team are working on.

Over the last six months, the Board has been working on finalizing the Strategic Initiatives for our organization over the last six months and we are really excited about where the organization will focus its energy over the next few years.

Our first initiative is to conduct further research to ensure APC is meeting the needs of its constituents – specifically our members.

We, as members of APC, are diverse, caring, and strive to be the best in our profession. To be THE support team for chaplains who want to be an example of excellence in our profession, APC needs to continually reassess the services we provide to ensure we are meeting your needs. We will be contacting you all later this year to gather your preferences, needs, and opinions in a member survey.

We will also continue to support initiatives that capture evidence based research for, by and about chaplains, which is why we created and are leading the Joint Research Council with representatives from chaplain organizations around the world.

The second initiative of our Strategic Plan is to expand our collaborative partnerships. To elevate and strengthen our profession, we are committed to working with other chaplaincy organizations and strategic alliance partners that support professional chaplains. We have several projects in the works that we are very excited about.

As one example, we have been working with 4 other cognate groups on a Joint Conference for 2020 that will bring all of our members together, giving you an opportunity to network, learn from, and collaborate with even more of your professional peers.

The third initiative of our Strategic Plan is to continue to be the leader in our industry for providing best-in-class professional development opportunities. We are working to expand the topics of our educational offerings, the formats we use to give our members more options, as well as create new specialty certification courses. To start, we have just announced that we are working with California State University to create a new course on palliative care. You can always find news of other collaborative projects in the *APC Forum*.



Our final strategic initiative focuses on optimizing technology and bringing more innovation to how we serve our members to communicate more effectively and streamline our processes.

To ensure that our organization has the right talent to implement these strategic initiatives as well as continue to best meet our members' needs, our organization underwent a restructuring earlier this year. We outsourced the conference planning department which freed up resources to bring in new staff members with experience in advocacy, innovative education, and creative ideas for outreach.

I hope you are as excited about the upcoming Annual Conference in Houston this June as I am. We have planned some exciting changes this year that you won't want to miss, like the TED talk style plenary sessions.

We started our Annual Conference 70 years ago, so that professional chaplains would have a place to collaborate, connect with other members of their profession and continue to learn and grow within their profession. This year is going to be amazing.

I want to share the top reasons members said they attended the Annual Conference.

- **Continuing Education** - This year, participants can attend over 40 workshops, 17 professional development intensives, poster presentations, and Special Interest Groups and Faith Group meetings.
- **Networking** - The APC Annual Conference is a great place to meet fellow chaplains to collaborate with or find support for special interest projects, conduct research or find like-minded chaplains to co-create a workshop on a topic for which you feel passion. Many members say they have made incredible friendships at the conference and that being surrounded by other high performing professionals is emotionally fulfilling.
- **Diversity** – Nowhere else can you find the diversity in topics, faiths, and disciplines that can be found at our Annual Conference. Members appreciate listening to different viewpoints from chaplains of different faiths as well as adapting best practices from other spiritual care disciplines.
- **Recognition** - The Annual Conference is the venue where APC recognizes outstanding members who advance professional chaplaincy and our association. We also congratulate and celebrate the newly certified BCCI® Board Certified Chaplains and welcome them into the fold.

In closing, I encourage all members to get more involved in APC by volunteering on committees, task forces and state organizations. Engaged members make our family of diverse chaplains strong.

I look forward to working with you ensuring the future of APC. Blessings!