



News Release

Association of Professional Chaplains
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Association of Professional Chaplains™ Finds that Collaboration Allows It to Accomplish More to Elevate the Importance of Spiritual Care

(Hoffman Estates, IL . . . April 11, 2016) - The [Association of Professional Chaplains](#) (APC) has found an effective model to accomplish more for its members and the chaplaincy profession - collaboration with other organizations to strengthen and unify the voice of the profession. As the industry leader for over 70 years, APC is committed to and excels at providing the tools, advocacy, education and the support chaplains need to thrive in order to better heal those in spiritual need. APC constantly raises the bar for chaplains and has created the Gold Standard for Certification for professional chaplaincy care with its [BCCI Program](#), where it trains, evaluates and certifies the best in the spiritual care profession.

To accomplish more, APC is further stressing collaboration as it reaches out to work together with other chaplaincy organizations, professional disciplines and agencies.

"One of our key strengths is that we are inclusive. Our membership is the most diverse in the industry, in all aspects, which is an asset to our members. We can offer members better educational opportunities through integrated, diverse viewpoints, topics and collaboration," said APC President Margie Atkinson. "It is only natural to build on this characteristic and create an environment of collaboration to the benefit of the entire profession. We call on others to embrace collaboration as well."

By focusing on end results and opening the doors to collaboration, APC has accomplished much:

- To promote chaplaincy research and support evidence-based best practices worldwide, APC has initiated the Joint Research Council. The council includes representatives from chaplain organizations across North America, Europe, Israel, Australia and New Zealand. This collaboration will create one of the most robust research networks to date to support evidence-based best practices of chaplains in health care and other organizations.
- Together, APC, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC), National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) and Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC) are

currently working to revise and update the landmark 2001 [whitepaper](#), Professional Chaplaincy: Its Role and Importance in Health Care.

- APC is partnering with NACC for their Annual 2018 conference to add diverse viewpoints and bring more chaplains together for collaboration, networking, and the exchange of thought leadership ideas.
- APC and the Military Chaplains Association are partnering to create a new [board certified chaplain military chaplaincy](#) (BCC-MC) specialization.
- To help bring more focus on the importance and quality of spiritual care in hospice environments, APC joined the [National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care](#). Coalition member organizations represent chaplains, doctors, nurses and social workers. As part of the coalition, APC President Margie Atkinson recently traveled to Washington DC to meet with [policymakers](#) on the Senate Finance Committee Chronic Care Working Group. She is also member of the NQF Standing Committee for Palliative and End-of-life care to work with other organizations.
- In 2004, APC and five other North American chaplain organizations formed the Council on Collaboration to define the [Common Standards for Professional Chaplaincy](#). These certification and education standards are currently being updated by joint task forces of APC, CASC, NACC, NAJC and ACPE. They are exploring several areas of common interest, including consistency in teaching to and assessing the Common Standards, a parallel process of certification of ACPE supervisors and board certification, and demographic trends.

The [2016 APC Annual Conference](#) "Together@theTable: Chaplains as Strategic Partners" will be held June 23-26 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Every year, the annual conference brings together hundreds of spiritual caregivers to gain insight from well-known speakers and workshop leaders. This year's event will feature a special screening of a new documentary from Journey Films called "Chaplains," which profiles professional chaplains from diverse faith traditions in a variety of settings.

Atkinson pledges that over the next five years, APC will continue to reach out to collaborative organizations and combine resources to connect all so that the entire industry can benefit from the collective knowledge, wisdom and experience so that the various chaplaincy organizations can fulfill their missions.

For additional information, visit www.professionalchaplains.org.

About the Association of Professional Chaplains™

The Association of Professional Chaplains™ is a multi-faith 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 more than 5,000 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.