

Leaders Link

Equipping Leaders for Local Service



July, 2010

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TAKE NOTE

Important Deadlines and Reminders

Aug. 15, 2010: Deadline for [Annual Leadership Awards](#) nominations.

Sept. 2010 - Jan. 2011: ["Introduction to Chaplaincy Research"](#) five-part Webinar course presented by George Fitchett PhD BCC and Patricia Murphy PhD BCC on Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 9 & Dec. 7, 2010 and Jan. 11, 2011. Registration deadline Aug. 20, 2010.

Sept. 16, 2010: "Pastoral Care for the Traumatized" Webinar presented by Rev. John Oliver DMin BCC. Registration deadline Sept. 7, 2010.

Sept. 20, 2010: Deadline to submit [Applications for Nominations](#) for APC national leadership positions.

Oct. 22, 2010: "From Student to Professional Chaplain: Demystifying the Board Certification Process" Webinar presented by Rev. Joseph F. Perez BCC with Rev. Robert L. Grigsby BCC. Registration deadline Oct. 13, 2010.

Nov. 30, 2010: "A Day in the Life of a Professional Chaplain: Incorporating Standards of Practice Into Your Practice" Webinar presented by Brent Peery BCC and Mark LaRocca-Pitts BCC. Registration deadline November 22.

March 24-27, 2011: [APC 2011 Annual Conference](#), Hyatt Regency DFW, Dallas, TX. Professional Development Intensives begin March 23.

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FEATURE

Thank You, You Make the Difference

by Darryl I. Owens MDiv BCC CT

Often local leaders have the opportunity to question if they are making any difference in APC. I'm sure, many times you can feel like a local parish pastor – wondering if anyone is really listening to you or understands what you are trying to get done. Well, the good news is people are listening and observing you. As the state representatives, state advocacy chairs, state continuing education chairs, state membership chairs and BCCI area certification chairs, I am amazed at the hard work all of you continue to do. This work is the backbone of APC.

As a newcomer on the board this past year, I have been able to see the importance of the work you do, and how it enables the board and the executive committee to do what we do.

As the practice of transparency has been put into action by the president, the president-elect and the board, it becomes very clear to the membership at large just how important the work of local leaders is in connection with the overall work of APC. If new members aren't nurtured and if new members aren't certified, then our work as the Association of Professional Chaplains and the Board of Chaplaincy Certification Inc. is compromised.

Had it not been for the local leadership in North Carolina informing me about opportunities within APC, I may not have done as much as I have been privileged to do thus far in our organization. I have enjoyed opportunities like serving on the Membership Services Council, on several conference planning committees, on certification committees, and on the board of directors as a member-at-large. This is a wonderful organization with wonderful members because of the work you, as local leaders, do on a daily basis.

Thank you, thank you and thank you.

Rev. Darryl I. Owens MDiv BCC CT is the women's services chaplain/grief counselor at University of North Carolina Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC. He serves on the APC Board of Directors as a member-at-large and may be contacted at diowens@unch.unc.edu.

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LOCAL NEWS: Highlighting the challenges and opportunities of state leadership

Idaho Chaplains 'Share the Wealth'

by Alex Chamberlain BCC

As hospital budgets increasingly cut back or eliminate funds for education, individual chaplains find it difficult to attend conferences that are not in their region. "Share The Wealth" was created so that Idaho chaplains who had the opportunity to go to the APC 2010 Annual Conference could bring back information from their favorite workshops, and share it with one another and those who were unable to attend.

We gathered at a local restaurant, and APC released funds so that we could enjoy some appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. Five different workshops were discussed, with handouts and contact information from the presenters distributed among those attending. This equipped attendees with new ideas, as well as the means to reach presenters and get some firsthand information about best practices and helpful concepts for their own practice.

If you want to "share the wealth" in your own town, region or state, you can contact Jeffery Murphy, APC coordinator of state representatives, or Carol Pape in the national office to find out how APC can help fund an event that provides collegiality and good stewardship of our educational dollars.

Alex Chamberlain is a chaplain at St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center in Meridian, ID. He serves as a BCCI area certification chair and may be contacted at chambera@slhs.org.

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Welcome to the new State Representative for Virginia

APC welcomes Gordon Putnam BCC as the new State Representative for Virginia. Gordon serves at University of Virginia Cancer Center in Charlottesville. Welcome aboard, Gordon! At present, all state representative positions are filled, except for Rhode Island.

Interview with the 2010 Outstanding Local Leadership Award Recipient

Joseph F. Perez BCC of Valley Baptist Health System in Harlingen, TX, is this year's recipient of the APC Outstanding Local Leadership Award. *Leaders Link* asked Joe a few questions about his experience in local leadership. Here are his responses:

What APC local leadership positions have you held?

South Texas state membership chair from 2000-2003, APC state membership chairs coordinator on the Membership Services Council for four years, and Spiritual Care Summit 2009 Planning Team, Spiritual Care Committee.

What are the biggest challenges you faced in local leadership?

1. Matching resources to needs of the community.
2. Trusting the Great Resource and being creative to do No. 1.
3. Taking the time to learn and integrate with other resources in the community.
4. Broadening the scope of vision to serve the community.

What has been most rewarding to you as a local leader in chaplaincy?

By connecting with peers, building community, and sharing ideas with colleagues, I have grown tremendously. These relationships keep me from isolating and working in a vacuum. Because they have been so rewarding, they lead me to initiate and engage others regularly. No one can be a leader without the assistance of others. Our community as a whole and my pastoral care team in particular have enabled my leadership to be fruitful.

What would you say to encourage other chaplains to volunteer for leadership positions in chaplaincy?

I would simply say that gratitude is a great motivator to serve as a leader in chaplaincy. I have appreciated so much what other chaplain colleagues have given to me that I want to give back. Through the process of giving back, I have benefited greatly in my profession, thus creating greater value for my organization. I have used the collective spiritual care ideas and practices learned from others to enhance the ministry we provide here for our community.

What are your hopes for the future of chaplaincy in your local area?

It is my hope to continue to expand and stretch the role of the chaplain by marketing spiritual care services to local businesses and local health care organizations beyond our system. At the present time, we provide professional chaplain support to a local bank, car dealership, insurance company, airport, rehab hospital, long-term acute care hospital, and to another local hospital during an interim time when they were without spiritual care services.

What advice or counsel would you offer those who serve in APC local leadership positions?

Knowing oneself is critical to leadership and ministry. That is why chaplains spend so much time learning about themselves as ministers through the action/reflection process of clinical pastoral education. Samuel Wilberforce said, "Some preachers prepare their sermons, while others prepare themselves." Know your strengths and weaknesses, using them within a team. Where you are strong, lead. Where you are weak, employ the resources of those on the team who hold those strengths. Accept challenges that will broaden one's vision of ministry, recognizing that, like the Kingdom work, ministry is always broader than our perspective of it. Affirming these challenges, rather than avoiding them, can help to enlarge our opportunities to serve.

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NATIONAL NEWS AND PERSPECTIVES

BCCI Commission on Certification Seeks Leaders' Input and Experience

by Joseph Perez BCC

The BCCI Commission on Certification is working toward providing additional structure and resources for ministers seeking certification, as well as for those APC members who volunteer to assist in this procedure. The commission wants to shepherd this process while utilizing the gifts and talents of our leaders in APC. Your experience and wisdom is invaluable to the certification commission, and our hope is to share the load while making use of the broader membership expertise.

Here are our plans:

1. We have completed the resource of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the certification process. We ask that you review these questions and/or send us important questions from your experience. These FAQs can be found at: <http://professionalchaplains.org/BCCI/index.aspx?id=1862>.

2. We need to develop brief descriptions of the 29 competencies for certification. These descriptions would contain some of the qualities that demonstrate the competencies. Employing your experience to articulate one or two competencies would be a great return gift to APC. The link to the competencies is:

<http://professionalchaplains.org/uploadedFiles/BCCI/BCC%20PC%20AC%20competencies.pdf>.

3. We would like to create FAQ resources for APC members who are assisting in the certification process, including the following:

- FAQs concerning how to write a presenters report:
https://www.professionalchaplains.org/uploadedFiles/Members_Only/COMPLETE%20PRESENTER%20PAC%20KET%20OF%20FORMS.pdf
- FAQs for certification committee chairs concerning how to shepherd the process:
https://www.professionalchaplains.org/uploadedFiles/Members_Only/Committee_Chair_Packet_BCCI.pdf
- FAQs for committee members, as well as guidelines and/or a standard operating process:
https://www.professionalchaplains.org/uploadedFiles/Members_Only/Organization&ResponsibilitiesofBCCICommittee.pdf

Your feedback as a former certification committee member is very useful to us. What helped you in your different roles as you worked on certification committees? What would be helpful to orient new members to participate in the process? From your experience, what went wrong in the process, and how can we keep it from happening to others?

Please know that your volunteer work is valued by your present colleagues, and we are grateful for all that you have already given back to the APC. This work we are doing now will be appreciated by those who will seek membership and certification in the future. If you know of other APC member BCCs whose input would aid this process, please help us to network with them and our broader community. If your state would like to tackle one or more of these tasks, please let us know, and we will assist you in any way we can.

Thanks for all you do to edify your communities and your profession. I invite you to contact me at the e-mail address below.

Joseph F. Perez MDiv BCC is vice president, pastoral services at Valley Baptist Health System in Harlingen, TX. He may be contacted at Joe.Perez@valleybaptist.net.

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Focus on Advocacy

Editor's Note: This will become a regular column in each edition of Leader's Link, featuring articles from Robert Hendricks, chair, and others on the Commission on Advocacy.

The Annual Conference in Schaumburg this year was a very positive experience, and the Commission on Advocacy enjoyed 100% participation by commission members. Committees on the commission include: Representative to Social Justice, Retired Chaplains Resource Committee, International Advocacy, Promotional Advocacy, Advocacy Education, Public Policy Advocacy and State Advocacy Services Coordinator. Francis Williams, committee chair for Social Justice, will conclude her second and final term in October. The Commission on Advocacy is grateful for her distinguished service to APC.

This month's article features the Retired Chaplains Resource Committee, chaired by Jim Stephens of Anchorage, AK. Jim is no stranger to APC. He became a member of the College of Chaplains in 1991 and was certified in 1993. He served as state representative for Alaska, membership services coordinator on the Membership Services Council, and he covered many square miles as certification chair for Area 13, which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Jim was a member of the APC Education Committee, and you may have trained with him for the Spiritual Response Team (SRT) of the American Red Cross.

The Retired Chaplains Resource Committee was previously called "Advocacy Resources Committee," but members changed the name this year to better describe the mission and purpose of the group. The word "retirement"

sometimes conjures the image of a rocking chair or the bumper sticker, “Retirement, Half the Money and Twice the Husband,” but not to the RCRC!

With more and more Baby Boomer chaplains nearing retirement, it is not surprising that RCRC conducted a workshop this year at the APC conference on “Retirement Issues for Chaplains” and experienced an overflow of standing-room-only-chaplains. One outcome will be a future seminar on “Retirement Issues for Single Chaplains.” The committee is exploring the feasibility of hosting a retired chaplains hospitality suite at the 2011 conference. Also at the 2010 conference, five chaplains recorded their “stories” in taped interviews. A follow-up idea is to have other retired chaplains tell and record their experiences in the state where they reside, being interviewed by APC members. George Robie is spearheading a project to contribute an article by retirees for the fall issue of *Chaplaincy Today* annually. The RCRC encourages APC to continue to plan continuing education opportunities for long-term care chaplains, possibly through Webinars. The committee also encourages the possibility of specialty certification.

RCRC offers to be a resource to the growing number of retired chaplains and invites your questions and ideas. Besides Jim Stephens, committee members are Roger Bucy, Paula Curtis-Burn, Martin Feldbush, Dale Guckenberger, Joanne Rannells, George Robie, Preston Smith and Robert Spencer. Jim Stephens can be contacted at jim56@gci.net or 907.240.6154, but keep the Alaskan time zone in mind!

Robert Hendricks BCC is director of chaplaincy services at San Antonio State Supported Living Center in San Antonio, TX, serves as Commission on Advocacy chair and may be contacted at robert.hendricks@dads.state.tx.us.
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MUSINGS FROM MISSISSIPPI

by Jeffery Murphy BCC

I am a native of south Mississippi. When I was growing up, I spent so much time on the beaches and backwaters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast that I think the waters of the Gulf of Mexico run through my veins. I grew up eating the seafood of the Gulf of Mexico. The culture of the central Gulf Coast is a part of who I am. It is a part of my character.

That culture has been uniquely challenged in recent years, first by Hurricane Katrina, and now by the Deep Horizon oil spill. That culture fights for its survival. This grieves me in ways that I think only those who live or have lived in the area can understand.

For that reason, local culture has been on my mind a great deal in recent years, and especially in recent months. Even in this technological and mobile age, we are still connected to the earth and what happens to the environment around us. The culture we live in defines a part of ourselves.

As the local leadership of APC, you represent a variety of local cultures and thoughts. You are entrusted with representing the state or area in which you live and work – its unique concerns, ideas and perspectives. You do this in ways that only those from your area can understand. You provide a richness of cultures and perspectives that I have come to value and appreciate. Thank you for providing this most valuable gift to your fellow professional chaplains and to APC.

Rev. Jeffery Murphy BCC is a chaplain at University of Mississippi Medical Center. He serves on the APC Membership Services Council as the national coordinator of state representatives and may be contacted at jnmurphy@hospadmin.umsmed.edu.

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Leaders Link is published quarterly by the Association of Professional Chaplains to provide news and information for local and regional leaders. All comments are welcome.

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