



## News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL CHAPLAINS INTRODUCES PALLIATIVE CARE SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION**

Schaumburg, IL, May 1, 2013 – Palliative care specialty certification is now available through the Board of Chaplaincy Certification Inc. (BCCI), an affiliate of the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), the largest organization of professional chaplaincy care providers in the U.S.

Palliative care is a distinct and growing service in health care, and the demand for specialists in this field is increasing. In response to this trend, APC/BCCI has developed competency standards, requirements and an assessment process for advanced specialty certification beyond the board certified chaplain designation level. With successful completion of the process, the designation of a person so certified will be BCC-PCC (board certified chaplain - palliative care certified).

“The specialty certification in palliative care recognizes those board certified chaplains who have committed time and other resources to gain expertise in a defined area of care,” says APC President Valerie Storms MDiv BCC, manager of Chaplaincy Care at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL. “Other specialty certifications will follow as APC strives to offer opportunities for its members to hone their skills and specialize in distinct areas, mirroring the specializations available to other professions and furthering the quest to be the premiere association for advancing the profession of chaplaincy.”

Attention has been given to making this process accessible to board certified chaplains working in the field who desire to show their progression and mastery of spiritual care competencies both experientially in their practice and through knowledge and use of palliative care literature. This certification will provide the chaplain with credentials comparable to the other disciplines on the palliative care team who have already established specialized standards and certifications (physician, nurse, social worker). The BCC-PCC standards are based

on the nationally recognized *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, Third Edition*. National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care (2013). <http://www.nationalconsensusproject.org>

“For those wishing to serve as a chaplain in a palliative care program, it will be of growing importance over the years to have specialized training in the field,” says BCCI Commission on Certification Chair Robert Grigsby BCC, director of Pastoral Care at Trinity Mother Frances Health System in Tyler, TX. “Certification in spiritual care of people receiving palliative care will likely stand professional chaplains in good stead as they seek to offer their special ministry to the growing number of people who have life limiting conditions but may not be terminally ill.”

Palliative care specialty certification applications are now being accepted. Complete information is available on the BCCI website, <http://bcciprofessionalchaplains.org>.

### **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 are supported by their faith groups to provide chaplaincy care to persons in need in diverse settings throughout the world. APC's membership of nearly 4,500 represents more than 150 faith groups. The association and its members embrace the following values:

- Dignity and worth of all persons.
- Faith as an essential dimension of wholeness.
- Chaplaincy care of persons, communities, organizations and systems.
- Inclusivity and diversity.
- Justice and equality for all.
- Professional competency and ethical practice.

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

### **About the Board of Chaplaincy Certification Inc.**

The Board of Chaplaincy Certification Inc., an affiliate of the Association of Professional Chaplains, certifies professional chaplains according to established national standards. Its mission is to foster excellence in chaplaincy through board certification. The vision of BCCI is to support quality chaplaincy care by professionally trained board certified chaplains to all those in need. This is done through certification of persons of quality and capability; maintenance of quality systems of certification; and timely certification processes.

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