



# Training & Resources

## PRIDE for ALL

### *Clinical Chaplains are Called to Serve All*

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As they serve communities and institutions in areas of need, such as hospitals, hospices, and palliative care settings, clinical chaplains are also called to serve the LGBTQ+ clients and patients. Since the foundations of clinical chaplaincy by people like Anton T. Boisen and Richard Cabot, chaplaincy has evolved over the past fifty plus years to being open to or engaging with LGBTQ+ issues more than ever, but there is, with no doubt, room for more growth.

In 2018, WBUR, Boston's NPR, published an interview with a Chris Alburger, a clinical chaplain hired specifically for LGBTQ+ senior care at Hebrew SeniorLife in Roslindale, MA. The facilities' clinical pastoral education program is possibly the first in the nation to focus on the spiritual care of LGBTQ+ seniors.

Training centers focusing on the spiritual and religious traditions, while drawing on respect for peoples' beliefs and practices, have the potential of creating well-trained clinical chaplains and pastoral

counselors who are committed to serving older adults, the religious, non-religious, and other marginalized groups.

As Alburger, who identifies as trans and uses he/him pronouns stated in his interview, "Chaplains are for people, not religions."



Older LGBTQ+ adults, according to an article published by SAGE, Advocacy and Services for LGBTQ+ Elders, in November 2021, reported that LGBTQ+ seniors are more likely to experience mental and physical health disparities due to lacking inclusive and appropriate care, compounded by lifelong experiences of discrimination and social isolation. The report also noted that fifteen percent of

LGBTQ+ individuals, nationwide, postponed or avoided medical treatment in 2020 due to discrimination, which includes close to 3-in-10 transgender people. The bottom line is everyone needs to see the same level of support and full range of services.

As someone with a private practice in Manhattan offering counseling, providing clientele with a non-judgmental, safe place, room to talk about their pain and what is ailing them is key. As clients face issues like addiction and chemical dependencies, relationship problems, panic attacks, and traumas is important but giving them a place to journey around the deep issues like coming out, rejection by family or society, living with HIV and the challenges they face with healthcare and social services, as these issues are part of the identity and the pain of the LGBTQ+ community.

Providing clinical chaplaincy care for everyone, giving people a safe space to talk openly about life's stresses, makes a significant impact on the experience and level of care for marginalized people, no matter their age, background, and theology. After all, the core of what we, as clinically trained chaplains, do is moral reconciliation with clients, community members, and patients. Organizations need to fill out their ranks to include clinically trained chaplains with inclusive and affirming perspectives.



## Program History

International Chaplain Foundation was incorporated in 2016. Founders Rev. Andrew Harriott and Rev. Dr. Elaine Barry, realized their co-interest in community chaplaincy and their commitment to non-institutionalized training. Born out of outreach in a community program, Project FIND, a program providing services and support to seniors of low and moderate-income and homeless seniors in a non-institutionalized setting, they realized there was a need for clinical chaplaincy and pastoral counseling in the community. Utilizing technology and innovative resources, ICF, Inc. was one of the first CPSP online training centers.



experiences with patients, families and caregivers. The trainees reflect and act on their experiential encounters. The trainees, wherever their visits are, are involved with persons from diverse social, economic, religious, and ethnic backgrounds. Reflection on these experiences will form the basis for individual learning.

## Our Mission

The CPE/T program provides spiritual and religious resources and professional support for patients, families, caregivers, and staff. By focusing on the psycho-spiritual aspects of the persons in the CPE/T program, pastoral counselors/chaplains are encouraged to commitment to provide person-centered care and services.

The CPE/T program is committed to the following core values; namely: Respect, Compassion, Justice, Excellence, and Stewardship.

## Program Objectives

The Clinical Pastoral Training program utilizes the action-reflection-action learning process, which is central to CPE/T in several ways. One of the basic tenets of CPE/T is that trainees are involved in hands-on and direct pastoral care

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