



History Teaches Us Lessons

Van Wai-Chuen Lo

“...Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” ~Romans 12: 17b-18~

In biblical literature, “forty” always symbolizes a time of challenges and promises. In Hong Kong, the idea of professional development in chaplaincy only emerged in the second half of this forty-year long ministry in the public sector. After the outbreak of SARS in 2003, the very first seminar on brainstorming the professional development of local chaplaincy was held in the chaplain community. Two years later, a task force was formed to conduct the first survey among local hospital chaplains on their attitude and understanding of such journey.

With the positive and promising feedback, the Preparatory Committee was launched in the Spring of 2007. Two essential documents from western literature were reviewed and translated, followed by comprehensive consultations among staff chaplains and local chaplaincy committees in 2008 and 2009 respectively. In the beginning of 2010, an executive staff member was recruited to further facilitate the development process. By the end of the same year, the Board of Director of the Association showed full support of the development by officiating the Committee of Professional Chaplaincy Development and appointing its founding members.

Moving into a New Chapter of Development

In early stage, the Committee focused on two primary tasks. One of them was to execute the first chaplain registration scheme in 2011. Another task was to draft the guidelines for chaplain continuing education (CCE) and professional certification. Since then, the professional development moved into a new chapter of development.

Cumulative Number of Chaplains Participated in the Registration Scheme: 188 chaplains

Years	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nos. of Registered Chaplains	74	83	89	93	89	94	99

Years	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Nos. of Registered Chaplains	100	106	112	109	98	91	90

Cumulative Number of Chaplains Applied for Chaplain Certification: 34 chaplains

Years	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2023	2024	Total
w/ tutoring	6	10	2	4	6	3	0	4	2	0	2	39
Applications	4	8	2	2	4	3	2	4	2	1	2	34
Granted	4	8	2	2	4	2	1	3	0	1	0	27
Passing %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	67%	50%	75%	0%	100%	0%	79%

Number of CPE Units offered by the Association for Chaplains: 145 units

Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nos. of Units	9	10	16	14	19	12	12	6

Years	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Nos. of Units	4	3	0	5	11	12	12	145

Cumulative CCE programs organized by the Association: 129 events, Cumulative Number of Attendees: 6,840

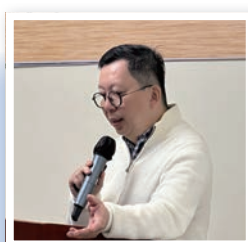
Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nos. of Programs	9	9	10	10	6	8	9	8
Attendees	329	348	394	324	227	390	510	399

Years	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Nos. of Programs	10	9	7	10	8	8	8	129
Attendees	473	599	709	749	523	431	435	6,840

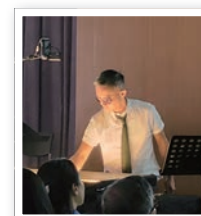
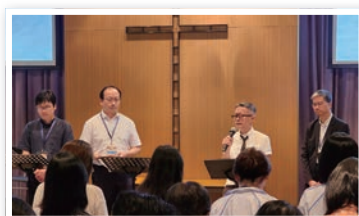


Spring CPE for Staff Chaplains

Fall CPE for Staff Chaplains



Chaplain Seminars



The 20th Chaplains' Day



Chaplains In-charge Day

Indispensable CCE Programs

While the whole community of chaplains focused on celebrating the 40th Anniversary this year, we did not neglect the importance of chaplain continuing education. In addition to conduct the Level I, Level II, and Supervisory Level of Clinical Pastoral Education programs in a larger capacity, the Association continued to organize relevant seminars, events, and certificate course for chaplains. All CCE programs were held in persons because we valued such opportunities not only for the transmission of knowledge, but also the communal fellowship. It was a delight to get acquainted with a new generation of novice chaplains.

Month	CCE Programs / Seminars	Counts
Jan-Apr	Spring CPE for Staff Chaplains	8
January	Introduction to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)	64
Mar	Introduction to a theology of reconciliation and its application on spiritual care	49
April	The 2nd Class of Certificate Course for Spiritual Care Clinical Tutors	11
May	A reflection on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's understanding of spiritual care	62
June	The 20th Chaplains' Day: Making Streams in the Wasteland	125
July	Chaplains In-charge Day: Succession of the Identities and Responsibilities	28
August	A reflecting on the hidden grief of chaplains and its impacts on one's pastoral care	80
Sept-Nov	Fall CPE for staff chaplains	4
November	Enhancing holistic care for caregivers	44

Certificate Course for Spiritual Care Clinical Tutor

Every year, hospital chaplaincy teams recruit CPE interns, seminarians and chaplaincy volunteers to enrich their pastoral education and hospital ministry outcomes. Frontline chaplains always serve as clinical tutors for these groups of learners. To enhance the quality of the clinical tutorship, the Association designed a curriculum to equip hospital chaplains to transform their clinical experiences into teaching resources and to perform the four primary duties in more effective ways. These duties include demonstration, instruction, intervention, and evaluation of pastoral care. Chaplains who completed the 20 hours of learning and satisfactorily completed the assignment will be recognized as Certified Clinical Tutor for Spiritual Care. The course was composed of lectures, group discussions, interactive case reflection and role plays. There were nine Certified Clinical Tutors awarded in 2024. The participants agreed that the course contents would help them ensure the quality and safety of the ministry provided by this extra manpower.



Certificate Course for Spiritual Care Clinical Tutors



Summer CPE for Seminarians



ABS Chaplaincy Team 2023-24

CPE & Hospital Visitation Program for Seminarians

In recent years, we are grateful that more seminarians showed interest in hospital chaplaincy. The Association offered summer CPE program for them. Five interns from different seminaries enrolled in 2024. We also continue to organize hospital visitation for seminarians with the Alliance Bible Seminary (ABS). A class of 15 seminarians joined in the year of 2023-24 and 12 seminarians in 2024-25. Together with 30 hours of hospital visitation, these participants were able to acquire basic concepts, pastoral care skills, and clinical reflection in different seminars. In the last two years, a few of these participants decided to become hospital chaplains after their seminary graduation.



ABS Chaplaincy Team 2024-25

Conclusion

After forty years of wandering in the desert, Israel entered the Promised Land to face the “real challenges” in her history. After forty days of retreat in the wilderness, Jesus Christ was tempted physically, psychologically, and spiritually. In our celebration, we acknowledge the achievement of professional development attained in the past twenty years, but also admit that we are hitting a plateau. For this reason, the Committee focuses on how to nurture the coming generation of chaplain for succession. This task is indeed full of challenges, temptation, and hopefully promises.

“What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.” ~ Psalm 116:12 & 14, NIV ~

January 31, 2025

Corporate Honorary Overseas Consultants:

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE)

Association of Professional Chaplains, Inc. (APC) & its subsidiary Board of Chaplaincy Certification, Inc. (BCCI)

Individual Honorary Overseas Consultants: The Rev. James T. Pollard, The Rev. Dr. Theodore E. Hodge, The Rev. Kjell Aas, The Rev. Dr. Mark E. Jensen, The Rev. Dr. John H. Moody, The Rev. Kathy A. Turner, The Rev. Dr. Dennis E. Kenny, The Rev. Dr. Hendrik Adriaan van Sluijs, Chaplain Robert Kidd, Chaplain John K. Swift, The Rev. Sandra Yarlott, and The Rev. Rodney W. Seeger.

Individual Local Consultants: Professor Simon Kwan, Professor Jason Yam, Dr. Raymond Chen, Dr. Beatrice Cheng, Dr. Cheung Tak Hong, Dr. Susie Lum, and Mr. Ng Kin Yuen.

Rev. Lo is Board Certified Chaplain of APC and Certified Educator of ACPE. He currently serves as Supervisor (Professional Development and Pastoral Education) of the AHKHCCM. He can be reached via vanwclo@hospitalchap.org.hk.

Address : G/F., 4-6 Heng Lam Street, Lok Fu, Kowloon, Hong Kong Tel : (852)2339 0660 Fax : (852)2339 0966

Email: profession@hospitalchap.org.hk Web: www.hospitalchap.org.hk