



## Professional Chaplaincy Development and Pastoral Education Annual Report 2025

### Becoming Professional Stewards

Van Wai-Chuen Lo

*“...This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”*

*~1 Corinthians 4:1-2, NIV~*

In Chinese martial arts, the practice of horse stance is considered a key to success. Martial artists must practice this essential exercise routinely. In the Bible, the Parable of the Two Builders reminds us the importance of laying a good foundation, whether to build on a rock or sand, to life engineering. We identify professional chaplaincy development as life engineering of a vocational community. Pastoral education is one of the key foundations of this construction.

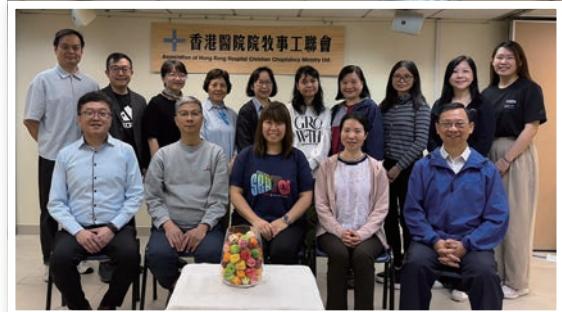
#### Continuing Education for Chaplains

Statistics informs us that over 45% of current Christian staff chaplains have enrolled to this ministry within the last five years. On top of their theological education and basic units of clinical pastoral education, they surely need quality and sustainable on-job training opportunities. Every year, the Association played an important role to organize various chaplain continuing education (CCE) programs.

Month	CCE Programs	Counts
Jan-Apr	Spring CPE for Staff Chaplains	10
February	Reflection at Sandy Ridge Cemetery for Anonymous Deceased (2nd tour)	38
Mar	A theological reflection on prayers in the context of hospital chaplaincy	76
May	A Momentary Slip: a reflection on pastoral care for suicidal survivors	72
May	The 3rd Class of Certificate Course for Spiritual Care Clinical Tutors	12
May - Aug	Clinical Case Study Group (two groups)	40
June	The 21th Chaplains' Day: Listen carefully to the cross-generational voices	120
July	Chaplains In-charge Day: What Does Hospital Accreditation Mean to Chaplain I/Cs?	25
August	What Do You See? Understanding Life and Death from Picture Books	58
Sept-Nov	Fall CPE for staff chaplains	5
November	Mere Grace: a reflection on the vulnerability and grace	48



Fall CPE for Staff Chaplains



Spring CPE for Staff Chaplains



Clinical Case Study Groups



Chaplain Seminars



The 21st Chaplains' Day



Chaplains In-charge Day

## Certificate Course for Spiritual Care Clinical Tutor



Adopting the concept of clinical tutorship in medical education, the Association composed the first curriculum for equipping spiritual care clinical tutors in 2021. This program is designed to help chaplaincy teams proactively respond to the increasing demands of quality assurance, commitment expectation and service accountability in mentoring CPE interns, seminarians and chaplaincy volunteers in hospitals. In 2024, a second class of this certificate course was held and nine Certified Clinical Tutors were awarded. To fulfill the continuous demands of such training need, the Association offered the third class of this certificate course again in 2025. There were ten more Certified Clinical Tutors awarded after completion of a 20-hour program and course assignments.



## Supervisory Education and Certification of Chaplain

Given the fact that both the supervisory faculty and potential students are very limited, to nurture next generation of local supervisors is extremely resource driven. Upon the resumption of supervisory CPE program in 2024, we were grateful to have our Supervisory Candidate passed the certification committee and was granted the status of Associate CPE Supervisor in May of 2025. This is the second one in the history of the Association, with the previous one happening more than ten years ago. In addition to this encouraging news, a new supervisory intern joined the program in Fall of 2025 who passed the Pre-certification committee, chaplain certification, and also the certification as Supervisory Candidate within three quarters. Thanks be to God.



Certification of Associate Supervisor



Pre-certification Committee



Certification of Supervisory Candidate



Committee for Chaplain Certification

## Pastoral Education for Seminarians

While the overall enrollment of seminaries is decreasing in Hong Kong, the need for pastoral education has not diminished. The Association continued to organize the 13th Pastoral Care Symposium for local seminarians. After an opening didactic, each attendee signed up for two clinical workshops. The feedback received was positive.



The 13th Pastoral Care Symposium for Seminarians



Besides this, a regular summer CPE program for seminarians and the hospital visitation program for Alliance Bible Seminary were also offered in 2025.



Summer CPE for Seminarians



ABS Chaplaincy Team 2025-26



ABS Chaplaincy Team 2024-25



Pastoral Care Seminars for congregation



Pastoral Care Forum for Public



Pastoral Care Programs in Shanghai



## Conclusion

A Chinese idiom says, "it takes ten years to grow a tree, but a hundred years to nurture a person." Building hardware is never easy but cultivating software is much more challenging. Quality pastoral education is not fast food and has no shortcut. In this age, almost every profession wants to maximize the use of artificial intelligence. Nevertheless, carers, chaplains, pastors, and pastoral educators hopefully will not be, and should not be, replaced by human-like robots. A faithful professional steward is committed to use whatever gift they have received to serve others with passion and hearts rather than merely data.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." ~ 1 Peter 4:10, NIV ~*

January 31, 2026

### 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. Tong Wah Kun, Dr. Cheung Tak Hong, and Mr. Ng Kin Yuen

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