



# The Association of Hong Kong Hospital Christian Chaplaincy Ministry

Annual Report 2017

on

Professional Chaplaincy Development and Pastoral Education

## After Ten Years

Van Wai-Chuen Lo

*“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” ~ Ephesians 4:2-3 NIV~*

Collaboration is a form of team building engineering which has always been easier to advertise than achieve. The outcomes of collaboration include embracing people with diverse backgrounds, unifying the common core values among stakeholders, envisioning goals for future development, and motivating individuals to contribute and participate. Besides chaplains, we can learn from the similar journeys that other medical professionals have gone through.

### Learning from Others

In clinical settings, nursing staff and chaplains build the closest working partnership. Last year, the Association continued to initiate interviews with Cluster General Managers of Nursing (CGMNs) and faculty members of nursing schools in Hong Kong. These nursing administrators and educators sincerely shared their stories of fruitful frontline experiences and how they perceived the needs and challenges to shift to positions bearing higher level of visions and responsibilities. One of their common visions was to equip the next generation of nursing professionals with strong body of knowledge, mind-full sets of clinical skills and caring working spirit. This professional trio directs the development pathway that is not only applicable to nursing staff, but also to hospital chaplains.



Visitations to CGMNs & Nursing Professors

### Continuing Education is more than Credit Hours

Since 2012, the Professional Development Committee adopted a voluntary scheme of Chaplain Continuing Education (CCE). Participants reported their CCE hours by the end of the year. Ideally, quality education should not only be measured by credit hours, but also by personal and professional growth. The theme of CCE in 2017 was “Enhancing Professional Competencies” that included conceptual, clinical, and reflective learning. While chaplains were encouraged to seek for learning opportunities according to their needs, the Association also strived to offer relevant and quality education programs at minimal costs with the help from local experts. The following table summarized major CCE programs offered by the Association. The overall high attendance of these educational events shows that chaplains treasured these affordable resources.



Spring CPE for Chaplains and Pastors



The 13<sup>th</sup> Chaplains' Day



Chaplain-I/C Education



Fall CPE for Chaplains



| Month     | Programs  | Counts |
|-----------|---|--------|
| Jan-Mar   | Spring CPE for Hospital Chaplains and Congregational Pastors (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> unit) | 4      |
| Quarterly | Case Conferences for Hospital Chaplaincy Team from Pastoral Care Society                                | 32     |
| Feb       | Seminar: Vanity and Emptiness - encountering God in human vulnerability                                 | 67     |
| March     | Seminar: Clinical Application of Spiritual Assessment   | 66     |
| May       | Seminar: Conflicts and Opportunity of Hospital Ministry   | 62     |
| June      | The 13 <sup>th</sup> Chaplains' Day: Spiritual and Mental Health of Chaplains                           | 109    |
| July      | Chaplain-I/C Education: Envisioning the future of chaplaincy volunteer education                        | 22     |
| Sept-Nov  | Fall CPE for Hospital Chaplains (3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> unit)                               | 4      |
| Sept      | Seminar: Chaplains' Participation in Advance Care Planning  | 41     |
| Nov       | Seminar: What should Hospital Chaplains Understand about Bioethics                                      | 41     |



Chaplains Seminars

In addition to regular CCE programs, the Association continued to offer a certification tutorial group for those who were interested in applying for chaplain certification. In 2017, six chaplains enrolled in the study group for about half a year. Four of them submitted their applications and all were granted by the Board after certification interviews. Beginning from 2012, a total of 20 local chaplains went through this certification process. The passing rate remains 100% so far.



Certification tutorial group



Certification interviews





## Decennial Survey on Professional Development

At the end of 2016, the Professional Development Committee conducted the decennial survey on professional development of chaplaincy. The feedback was compiled into Chaplains Survey Report and Board Members Survey Report. There were 105 chaplains and 117 board members who participated in this survey with response rates of 85% and 49% respectively. This was the first follow up survey completed after the initial one was conducted in 2006. The survey covered areas including perception of chaplain's identity, registration and certification schemes, CPE training, continuing education, directions for future development, formation of professional body, and the educational impact of the survey on both the chaplains and board members. In summary, the feedback from both groups was quite congruent. They acknowledged the effort and direction that the Committee has achieved in the past. The feedback supported formulating concrete goals for continuing development. Our next challenge is to encourage respondents to transform their positive feedback into commitment, otherwise changes will not happen.



Reports of Decennial Survey on Professional Development

By the end of 2017, there were 91 staff chaplains out of 127 eligible applicants who have registered with the Association, including 28 Certified Chaplains, 46 Registered Chaplain I, 13 Registered Chaplain II, and 4 Auxiliary Chaplains. This represented a 72% participation rate.

## To Secure Heritage of Ministry through Education

In recent years, heritage of ministry has become a common concern among professions. Quality education helps secure the success of such sacred tasks. With limited resources, the Association continued to commit pastoral education prior to chaplaincy volunteers, seminarians, congregations and pastors in local and nearby areas. The most impressive event of the year was Chaplaincy Volunteers Education Day held in the summer. More than 260 chaplaincy volunteers from different hospitals joined together to enjoy fellowship and pastoral care workshops. Through various education programs, the Association aimed at equipping not only quality pastoral caregivers, but also our next generation pastoral educators.



The 8<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Care Workshops for Seminarians



Train-the trainers program in Shanghai



ATS Chaplaincy Team



| Month             | Events / Programs  |
|-------------------|--|
| Jan               | The 8 <sup>th</sup> Pastoral Care Workshops for Seminarians                              |
| Feb               | Train-the-trainers Program for Pastoral Volunteer Leaders in Shanghai, China             |
| Mar               | Class at Bethel Bible Seminary: A Theological and Ethical Reflection on Death and Dying  |
| Mar-Apr, Sept-Oct | Pastoral Education Program for Chaplaincy Team of Alliance Theological Seminary          |
| Apr, Oct          | Seminars for congregation: Pastoral Care to Cancer Patients                              |
| May, Jun, Sept    | Seminars for chaplaincy volunteers   |
| June-August       | Summer CPEs for Seminarians  |
| Jun               | Seminar for Congregation: Pastoral Care to People with Chronic Illness                   |
| Aug               | Chaplaincy Volunteers Education Day  |
| Sept              | Class at HK Baptist Theological Seminary: Building Constructive Pastoral Boundaries      |
| Oct               | Class at Divinity School of Chung-Chi College, CUHK: Practical Theology on Death & Dying |
| Oct               | Seminar for helping professionals: Reflective Practice of Grief Counseling               |
| Nov               | Seminar for helping professionals: Pastoral Care to the Sick People                      |



Summer half unit CPE for Seminarians



Summer full unit CPE for Seminarians



Chaplaincy Volunteers Education Day



## Conclusion

Reflection is a key to nurture the healthy “being” and “doing” of a chaplain, or an association. In most occasions, every one acts with good intentions and assumes we are walking on the right track. A Chinese idiom says, “Man proposes, God disposes.” Reflective practice guides us to examine our motivation and to understand the will of the Holy One.

*“All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighted by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” ~ Proverbs 16:2-3 NIV~*

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### 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)

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