Clinical Pastoral Education

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is theological and professional education for ministry. It began 70 years ago to include practical ministry experience in the theological education of ministers. It has evolved into education focused on ministry to persons in need through intentional theological and spiritual reflection with colleagues and supervisors.

CPE starts with the present learning needs of participants and helps each one grow as a minister and as a person. A peer group may include new seminary graduates struggling with pastoral identity, experienced pastors seeking continuing education and sharpening of pastoral skills, persons preparing for specialized ministry in chaplaincy and lay persons seeking to hone their pastoral care skills in order to effectively carry out the ministry to which they have been called. Peer groups help each individual achieve his/her learning goals and enhance interpersonal relationship skills. Group seminars help to facilitate this process: case studies, verbatim, didactic, worship and interpersonal relationships. Each seminar is designed to help the participant or CPE student reflect on his/her ministry in the group and in the clinical context.

Care & Counseling Center Of Georgia

The Care and Counseling Center of Georgia (CCCG) provides pastoral care, pastoral counseling and psychotherapy to individuals, couples, families and children. CCCG also provides training in pastoral care and counseling through the CPE program offered in cooperation with the theological schools in Atlanta. Pastoral care at CCCG is based upon a view of God as understanding and entering into human suffering and celebration as a source of power for healing and wholeness.

CCCG is accredited by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors for its pastoral counseling services and its training program in pastoral counseling. It is accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. for its program of training at Grady. Each member of the staff is certified by one of these two accrediting bodies as well as by the appropriate state licensing boards. CCCG is an affiliate of the Samaritan Institute.

Grady Health System

Grady Memorial Hospital, one of Georgia’s most valuable medical resources, is at the heart of Grady. It is the largest hospital in the state and a leading public academic healthcare system.

Situated in downtown Atlanta, Grady offers a broad range of specialized services, such as its Regional Perinatal Center, Burn Center, Diabetes Detection and Control Center, Georgia Poison Center, Marcus Stroke and Neuroscience Center, Rape Crisis Center, Sickle Cell Center and Emergency Department – the premiere level I trauma center in the region.

Grady Health System includes: Crestview Health & Rehabilitation Center, a 388-bed long-term care nursing facility; the Ponce De Leon Center, one of the largest and most comprehensive HIV/AIDS program in the nation; the Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence; and six neighborhood health centers, providing convenient, accessible primary care in communities throughout Fulton and DeKalb counties.

CPE PROGRAMS

Internships

Summer CPE
One unit of Clinical Pastoral Education is offered for 12 weeks beginning late May or early June through August. Persons participating in the summer unit of CPE are usually seminarians and/or seminary graduates training in a clinical setting. This is a full-time internship of 40+ hours each week.

Requirements: Theological education, motivation and desire to learn within action/reflection model of education.

Tuition: $500

Application Fee: $50; Check payable to CCCG

Extended CPE
Similar to our Summer Program, our extended CPE program is offered twice per year Fall (August through December) and Spring (January through May), for 16 weeks and is part-time (approximately 25 hours per week.) Persons participating in an extended unit are required to provide on-call coverage at the hospital during the weekday (16-hour shifts) and weekend (12-hour shifts). In addition to providing spiritual care in clinical settings, students meet once per week in four hour group meeting, which covers verbatim, didactic, and interpersonal relationship seminar. Students also meet with their supervisor for one hour each week. This extended unit of CPE is ideal for seminary students, those who work full-time or clergy persons who have flexibility with their schedules. This unit or a summer unit qualifies one to apply for a chaplain resident position.

Requirements: Theological Education, motivation and desire to learn within action/reflection, model of education

Tuition: $500
CPE Leadership

The Rev. Cora G. Saunders is the Director of Chaplaincy Services and Clinical Pastoral Education program at Grady Health System. She is an Episcopal Priest ordained in the Episcopal Church USA with a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Cora is a lifelong Episcopalian and serves in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. She is originally from St. Thomas, USVI and now calls Atlanta home. She is also an ACPE CPE Supervisor with the Southeast Region of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Cora has served as a prison chaplain, hospice chaplain, and hospital chaplain in many locations in Atlanta.

Cora is excited to be a part of Grady Health System and to journey with others whether they are discerning their call to ministry, deepening their pastoral care skills, or fulfilling the requirements of their ordination process. She agrees with others who have served in this capacity – there is no better place to learn and experience ministry in the real world than Grady.

For additional information:

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Or visit: The Institute for Chaplaincy and CPE,
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web site at ccgeorgia.org