

CPE Corner

Official Newsletter of the VUMC CPE Program
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*To plant a garden
is to believe in
tomorrow.*

- Audrey Hepburn

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CPE Program News

With Unit 3 well underway, the CPE Residency Program continues to explore educational opportunities for the residents and staff. In recent months, Rev. Young-ki Eun and the Chaplain Residents were given occasions to participate in interdisciplinary collaboration with staff in other VUMC departments.

In April and May, Rev. Eun and the Chaplain Residents offered didactic sessions on the basics of spiritual care to Internal Medicine Residents Dr. Elisa Maria Reid and Dr. Emily Camp who were rotating on the Palliative Care service. The Medicine Residents also spent a morning shadowing the Chaplain Residents as they provided spiritual care to patients and families. This collaboration originated from the Medical Residents on the Palliative Care service wanting to learn more about what Chaplains do at VUMC.

On May 7, Rev. Eun and the Chaplain Residents participated in the education of Internal Medicine Residents during one of their noon conference series sessions. During their presentation, they shared an overview of CPE and Pastoral Care including methodologies, spiritual assessment tools, as well as ways to reach out to the CPE and Pastoral Care teams. The Chaplain Residents also shared case studies demonstrating how chaplains offer spiritual assessment and care to patients and families at VUMC. The CPE Team greatly appreciated the opportunity to participate in this series.

Along with these interdisciplinary collaborations, Chaplain Residents have enjoyed access to a wealth of knowledge shared by didactic speakers from VUMC staff, PAG members, and other field experts from across the U.S. The benefits of these collaborations enrich not only the experience of the Chaplain Residents but also the patients, families, and staff they serve.



Note from Marilyn Dubree, Executive CNO

Nearly a year since its inception, the Clinical Pastoral Education Department at VUMC has made tremendous progress. It hit the ground running in July 2020 by hiring a Senior Program Manager and achieving pre-provisional accreditation status, holding its first Professional Advisory Group (PAG) meeting in August, and starting its inaugural group of four Chaplain Residents in September. Through the winter months, under the leadership of Terrell Smith, PAG members were added and connections with unit managers and community partners began. During the winter, we also achieved provisional accreditation status through the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). Spring started with new site rotations for the residents, contributing to the provision of pastoral/spiritual support at Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, and Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital. With summer on the horizon, the CPE Department is poised to welcome a new group of six new Chaplain Interns in August and four new Chaplain Residents in September.

Throughout this first year, the Chaplain Residents and Rev. Young-ki Eun have worked hard to forge connections with patients, families, and staff throughout the hospitals. Evidence of their dedication and compassion come back to them in words of gratitude from staff and patients. Below are just a few examples:

"Thank you, Mary & Stephen for your kindness, attentiveness, professionalism and heartfelt empathy that created such a sweet energy in my brother's room while we prepared to say good-bye."

"Kelli responded to a death in the Peds ED. She was more than helpful with staff and very compassionate with the grieving family."

"...[Fred] the support you gave me meant a lot to me. Thank you for making me feel heard in a time where I felt like I was constantly being spoken over (by my mom's siblings)."

"...Father Stephen is always so warm, kind, and willing to partner with families and providers of all backgrounds. He has been a wonderful asset to the patient- and family-centered care team! Thank you."

Through it all, the success of the residents and the program would not be possible without the continued support from VUMC leadership, Staff Chaplains, Professional Advisory Group members, and guest lecturers. As the saying goes, "it takes a village." Many thanks to our "VUMC village" for helping Clinical Pastoral Education grow further toward the mission of improving the health/spiritual care of "individuals and communities regionally - through the exceptional capabilities and caring spirit of its people."

In gratitude,

Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC
Executive Chief Nursing Officer
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

*No act of
kindness, no
matter how small,
is ever wasted.*

- Aesop



Note from Rev. Eun, Sr. Program Manager

Since the VUMC CPE program started in September 2020, there has been a continual increase in inquires and applications for our CPE programs. One of the most frequent questions applicants ask is: what are the unique features of the CPE program at VUMC? There are many. But to name a few, (1) excellent medical facilities, (2) caring community of the spiritual care team, (3) wonderful PAG members of Professional Advisory Group, and (4) the CPE class encouraging the residents to gain a deeper connection with their authentic selves and others in a trustworthy learning environment.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center is “one of the largest academic medical centers in the Southeast.” Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital and the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt are recognized each year by U.S. News & World Report’s Best Hospitals rankings as national leaders, providing top notch medical care to patients and families, “through the exceptional capabilities and caring spirit of its people,” thereby providing CPE trainees with excellent experiences in clinical placements. Also, staff chaplains are excellent not only in their professional skills of pastoral care but also in their integrity as human beings - providing a caring community to each other and functioning as wonderful mentors to CPE trainees. Another aspect is that the Professional Advisory Group consists of local leaders, professors of academic universities, clinical staff in medical settings who provide wonderful support to the CPE programs. Also, in the CPE classroom, trainees in the VUMC CPE programs are highly encouraged to gain a deeper connection with their authentic selves in a genuine, diverse, and trustworthy learning environment. They are supported in forging and strengthening their own personal and professional identity in their spiritual care ministry of compassion - narrowing the gap between embedded, confessed, and operational theology, along with the integration of head and heart. In their clinical site placements, trainees learn by serving patients and their families - the best teachers - by providing them with compassionate, soul-to-soul care.

As life is often viewed as a journey, the CPE training process can also be viewed as a journey of learning by serving - embarking on deeper awareness of, and connection with, self, others, and God. This journey is, in a way, towards spiritual maturity, with an open spirit of exploration, becoming aware of what is unknown with humility, trust and joy.

Special Thanks

Leadership Support: Janet Cross, Marilyn Dubree, Andy Peterson, Terrell Smith

Didactic Speakers: Imam Ossama Bahloul, Rev. Amanda Borchik, Dr. Brian Christman, Rev. Robert Petite, Dr. William Thiele

HR Support: Kalandrian Davis, JC Fischer, Jaimie Glatt, Novonda Lilly

Interviewers for CPE Candidates: Rev. Kira Austin-Young, Rev. Ian Cullen, Rev. Beth Duke, Rev. Raye Nell Dyer, Chaplain Duncan Gasson-Gardner, Rev. Peter Keese, Rev. Sherry Perry, Rev. Patricia Shropshire, Rev. Cordell Simpson

Internal Medicine Collaborators: Dr. Emily Camp, Dr. Maie El-Sourady, Dr. Rachael Leigh Petry, Dr. Elisa Maria Reid, Dr. Andy Wooldridge

Milestones and Accomplishments



This year, Vanderbilt University Graduate Department of Religion awarded Aly Benítez with the Betty R. Ford Graduate Student Service Award. The award honors students who have “contributed to the common life of students in the graduate program, informally through personal and relational means of support and advocacy, or formally through coordinating student activities, or by service on committees or student government.”



Rev. Young-ki Eun and his wife Eun-Joo purchased a new home earlier this month. They are enjoying their new location and looking forward to settling down and getting to know their new neighborhood.



CP Magazine will publish four articles written by Rev. Patricia Shropshire. These articles pull from the research she has done on the early ordination of women in the Cumberland Presbyterian Tradition. Each article will highlight one of the women she has researched. Those featured thus far include Rev. Alice B. Hill Bishop and Rev. Miss Birdie Lee Palette. Rev. Shropshire will have three more articles published in upcoming editions.

*When you focus
on the goodness in
life, you create
more of it.*
- Oprah Winfrey

Virtual Ecumenical Christian Services

For patients, families, and staff

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92045193035>

Or use phone camera to scan the QR Code:



Ecumenical Service Dates

June 2021

June 2, 2021 - Rev. Young-ki Eun

June 9, 2021 - Chaplain Aly Benítez

June 16, 2021 - Rev. Kelli X

June 23, 2021 - Rev. Beth Duke

June 30, 2021 - Chaplain Tamika Robertson

July 2021

July 7, 2021 - Rev. Cordell Simpson

July 14, 2021 - Rev. Young-ki Eun

July 21, 2021 - Chaplain Fred Brown

July 28, 2021 - Chaplain Mary Murphy