Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is graduate level, professional education for pastoral care ministry. It brings clergy, theological students, and qualified lay-persons of all faiths into the supervised delivery of pastoral care. The heart of CPE is ministry with patients, their family members, and clinical staff. Learning from that ministry occurs through critical reflection, dialogue, and evaluations with other students and their supervisor. Anton Boisen, a founder of CPE, referred to this learning process as “the study of living human documents.” Through this process of learning, students gain insight into their strengths and areas of needed growth. Most students find CPE to be a deeply transformative experience.

OUTCOMES OF CPE

Through the CPE process at Kettering Health Network students will be able to attain the following:

- A deeper awareness of one’s personal and spiritual identity.
- A greater understanding of the needs of people and the ability to respond to those in need appropriately.
- A satisfactory integration of theology and behavioral sciences resulting in providing effective ministry.
- An increased capacity to evaluate one’s ministry.
- The ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team in providing holistic care.
- The ability to provide spiritual care in traditional and non-traditional settings.

MINISTRY AND LEARNING ROOTED IN MISSION

“Kettering Health Network’s mission is to improve the quality of life of the people in the communities we serve through health care and education. We are dedicated to excellence and to providing each individual the most appropriate care in the most appropriate setting. In the spirit of Seventh-day Adventist healthcare ministry, we strive to be innovative and to convey God’s love in a caring environment.”

Kettering Health Network is a healthcare institution with a strong educational emphasis. We serve the Miami Valley through 8 hospitals, 3 emergency centers, numerous community health centers, 2 graduate medical education programs, and a college offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in the health sciences. This provides an excellent learning environment for CPE. CPE is part of Kettering Health Network’s Spiritual Services and Mission Department. Chaplains offer spiritual and emotional support to persons within their care. This focus helps to set the spiritual climate of healing in our institutions.

CPE Students are part of the Spiritual Care team and they will work with professional chaplains. Students will learn to provide excellent spiritual care in traditional and non-traditional settings. Structured group and individual learning takes place through presentation of verbatim and case studies, weekly reflections, interpersonal relations group, individual supervision, didactics and lectures, and discussion of assigned readings.

CPE PROGRAM FORMATS

Under ACPE guidelines, Kettering Health Network offers Level I and Level II CPE. Each unit is designed to be a minimum of 400 hours of education for ministry (100 hours structured group and individual education, and 300 hours of supervised clinical ministry).

CPE Residency: The residency program is designed to prepare students for full-time chaplaincy. Students work full-time and receive a stipend as part of this program.

Summer Internship: A ten-week, 1-unit program ideal for seminary students who need CPE for their degree and/or ordination.

Extended Internship: A seven-month, 1-unit program ideal for community clergy, or qualified lay-persons who want to enhance their pastoral care skills.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

For CPE Internships, a minimum of one year of graduate level theological education from a CHEA accredited school is preferred. For lay-persons significant ministry experience is preferred.

For CPE Residency, completion of one previous unit of ACPE CPE and completion of MDiv (or equivalent graduate theological education from a CHEA accredited school) preferred.

There is a $25 application fee. If accepted into the program, tuition is $600 per unit. Applications are accepted all year long on a rolling admissions basis.

An application can be downloaded from our website at ketteringhealth.org/cpe and clicking on the “Application” tab.

Or by emailing us at cpe@ketteringhealth.org
CPE PROGRAM SITES

Kettering Medical Center has 466 licensed beds. Kettering Medical Center is located in the Dayton suburb of Kettering, serving the greater Dayton community since 1964. Kettering Medical Center offers CPE students clinical experience with medical-surgical units, emergency services, maternity services, intensive care, and a cancer center.

Grandview Medical Center is an Osteopathic teaching hospital licensed for 411 beds. Grandview Medical Center is located on the west-side of Dayton, Ohio in the historic neighborhood of Five Oaks. Grandview Medical Center offers pastoral care students a wide variety of clinical experience with medical-surgical units, behavioral health, intensive care, orthopedic and emergency services.

Clinical placements may also be available at Sycamore Medical Center, Southview Medical Center, and Soin Medical Center.

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