



CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

A program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches

Program Description

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in Community and Social Justice Ministries provides training for leaders from all communities of faith who want to further develop their spiritual care and counseling skills.

Our CPE center is accredited through the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., and is given graduate level credit at seminaries. It combines hands-on spiritual care with qualified supervision and peer group reflection, preparing people for specialized chaplaincies, and enhancing faith leaders' congregational ministries.

How it works

The CPE Supervisor/Educator uses community programs and congregational settings to teach narrative counseling theory to faith leaders, lay ministers and seminarians. Individually designed learning contracts focus on pastoral reflection, competence and specialization. Together we strive to build a continuum of care between communities of faith and those in greatest need, and to further develop our ability to respond to the needs of individuals through direct service and crisis care.

Program components

- **Group Process Learning:** Each unit is built on interpersonal group process learning in which five to eight faith leaders/seminarians learn purposeful listening skills and the basics of narrative counseling theory.
- **Clinical Work in Spiritual Care/Chaplaincy or Congregational Ministry:** Each faith leader/seminarian provides spiritual and pastoral care in settings in the community working with a special focus on serving men, women, and children who have experienced poverty, institutionalization or marginalization.
- **Individual Supervision:** Biweekly individual consultation for processing clinical work and interpersonal issues is also offered.

Program structure

Units are offered in the fall (September-December), spring (January-May) and summer (May-July).

One unit of CPE is 400 hours of work:

- 300 hours of clinical spiritual care in social justice or congregational ministry settings
- 100 hours of group process learning with peers in ministry

The 400 hour unit is done in a 15 week period, for 28 hours per week:

- 20 hours of clinical work
- 8 hours of group process

Clinical placements

- Congregational settings
- Refugee and immigration services
- Long-term care chaplaincy
- Ex-offender mentoring programs
- Correctional chaplaincy
- Homeless shelters
- Transitional living residences

ACPE outcomes for faith leaders

- Articulate central themes of religious heritage and the theological understanding that informs ministry.
- Identify and discuss major life events and relationships, as well as community and cultural contexts, which influence personal identity as expressed in pastoral functioning.
- Initiate peer group and supervisory consultation and receive critique about one's ministry practice.
- Risk offering appropriate and timely critique.
- Recognize relational dynamics within group contexts.
- Demonstrate integration of conceptual understandings presented in the curriculum into pastoral practice.
- Initiate helping relationships across diverse populations.
- Use the clinical methods of learning to achieve their educational goals.
- Formulate clear and specific goals for continuing pastoral formation with reference to personal strengths and weaknesses.
- Articulate an understanding of the pastoral role that is congruent with personal values, basic assumptions and personhood.
- Provide pastoral ministry to diverse people, taking into consideration multiple elements of cultural and ethnic diversity, social conditions, systems, and justice issues without imposing their own perspectives.

Application process

Twenty faith leaders/seminarians are accepted into the Clinical Pastoral Education in social justice ministries each year on a competitive basis. To apply, go to the student application at ACPE.edu and submit your application to sallershatlie@gmcc.org

Contact

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*GMCC/CPE is accredited for level I and II units by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.
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Notice to past participants:

Supervisory evaluations as well as student self-evaluations for units through spring 2010 are filed at Fairview CPE Center (contact jrobbin3@fairview.org for copies). CPE evaluations from Summer 2010 on are kept in files at GMCC (contact sallershatlie@gmcc.org for copies).