

Clinical Pastoral Education

A training program offered at Adventist Health Portland Medical Center



What Is CPE Training?

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is an individualized group-training model for professional chaplains.

Trainees develop a better understanding of self by reflecting on personal perceptions, actions and reactions. These tools allow them to become a more effective and therapeutically fit sojourner to the afflicted in their pastoral functioning.

Program supervisor



Leonid Zakhariya, DMin

- CPSP board-certified clinical chaplain and pastoral counselor
- CPSP Clinical Pastoral Supervisor diplomate

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Portland CPE Training Center does not discriminate against any individual for reasons of race, color, national origin, gender, age, physical disability, sex, faith group, or military status. Equal access to educational opportunities is extended to all qualified individuals. This policy notwithstanding, all trainees accepted in the program shall be able, with reasonable accommodation, to physically and emotionally perform their duties.

Since the program commenced in 2015, more than 50 students have graduated with CPE units from Adventist Health Portland.



“This is an opportunity to invest in your personal growth and development.”

Dr. Terry Johnsson

Vice president for community and mission integration

Our CPE Training Program

What is the model of training?

Our approach is based on the clinical method to “experience, reflect to learn and integrate.”

Every participant is an integral part of the training.

What is the focus of CPE?

The focus of CPE is to help the trainees embrace and develop self in light of personal successes and failures, strengths and brokenness, hopes, and despairs as a work in progress. CPE training allows the trainee to become the “primary tool” in pastoral functioning. The trainee becomes their own book to read, study and master, which in the lexicon of CPE is called the “living human document.” It is a wonderful opportunity to have an encounter with yourself!

Participating in CPE

Who is qualified to apply?

Our CPE training program offers pastoral training in clinical chaplaincy to individuals considering professional training with the pursuit of certification as well as those who are seeking personal growth and choosing to enhance their ministry in church and community life.

Application requirements

- A completed application
- An admission interview with a qualified interviewer to determine readiness
- A minimum of a college degree or for professional pursuit, a post-graduate degree from an accredited educational institution

Program offerings

- An introductory CPE unit for all qualified applicants
- Additional units for professional growth
- Preparatory work toward certification as a clinical chaplain

Program details CPE units

- Two 20-week units a year, 20 hours per week from March through July and September through January
- One 40-week unit a year, 10 hours per week from February to November
- One 10-week unit from July through August

Unit hours required

- 100 hours of training including didactics
- 300 hours in clinic interacting with patients

Certification requirements

- Unit 1 is an introduction to clinical chaplaincy
- Two units of CPE or 800 hours of equivalent clinical training is required for Associate Clinical Chaplain Certificate
- Four units of CPE or 1,600 hours of equivalent clinical training is required for Clinical Chaplain certificate

Tuition and fees

- Tuition is \$700 per unit
- Application requires a one-time \$45 nonrefundable registration deposit
- Fees are subject to change