



Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy A Report to the Church

Spring 2020

The Mission

Grounded in the love of God, the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy is a joint ministry of The Episcopal Church in New Hampshire and Vermont. Our chaplains offer pastoral presence and spiritual connection for Episcopalians at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center during times of illness and vulnerability.

A Prayer

Compassionate God, we commend to your loving care all who suffer, especially those who come to the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center seeking your healing grace. Give them patience and hope in their distress; strengthen and uphold them in mind and body; and grant that all your people may be made whole according to your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From our Bishops

The popular hymn says that “in Christ” the Church is “one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.” You will find in this Report that the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy lives out that vision by extending Christ’s pastoral care to Episcopal patients at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center who come from communities all across Vermont and New Hampshire, and indeed from across greater New England and the Anglican Communion.

Today more than ever, the Holy Spirit is challenging us to find and promote ways to proclaim the Gospel and demonstrate the caring and reconciling grace of God in Christ out in the communities that lie beyond the doors of our parishes and missions. Chaplaincy is one essential avenue of ministry that extends Christ’s healing and hope-empowering love into the midst of a large, sometimes clinical, medical institution. The importance of Chaplains has been made particularly vital by the recent pandemic as patients find themselves isolated and alone. Their lives are gladdened by the voice of a Chaplain whose words lift them up into that fellowship of love of which the hymn speaks.

As your Bishops, we are thankful for those who provide leadership and oversight to the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy and for those parishes and individuals who join us in supporting this ministry. We also give thanks for the ministry of the Episcopal Hospital Chaplains who are faithfully present week after week to those in need of Christ’s healing touch.

A. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop of New Hampshire
Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop of Vermont

From the President of the Board

“Pastoral presence and spiritual connection” are at the heart of the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy. The Board of Directors is privileged to enable this presence on behalf of the patients at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. We *know* that our chaplains make a difference to those who are confined to a hospital bed, cut off from family, friends, and the familiar. We have heard it for ourselves; we have family members who have experienced the loving comfort of our chaplains. It is with joy that we gather as a Board to support our Chaplains, the Revs. Jim Ransom and Lisa Ransom (no relation to one another!). They are a gift.

We are mindful that pastoral and spiritual care are needed far beyond the walls of DHMC. As we survey various other medical facilities within the greater Upper Valley, we know there are unmet pastoral needs. Thus, we have embarked upon visits with our regional parishes to listen and learn how we might best support them in the future. We have intriguing ideas: visits to continuing care facilities and other medical institutions, as well as training for parish pastoral care providers. We know that the needs of our current time and place are both multiple and compelling.

The current chaplaincy program is an incredible blessing for patients. With your support we will maintain and even expand the reach of this holy “pastoral presence and spiritual connection.”

Laura L. Kent
St. James, Woodstock, VT

From the Chaplains

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn have received: that Christ . . . was raised on the third day in accordance with the scripture!” Episcopal Hospital Chaplains follow in Paul’s footsteps of ministry. On behalf of the whole believing community, we hand on to Episcopal patients as of first importance what we ourselves have received: the Good News of the life-giving and reconciling resurrection of Jesus Christ. Centered in the outpouring of God’s loving kindness and compassion, and emboldened by the birth in us of a living hope in Christ Jesus, we introduce ourselves to Episcopalians from every corner of the Church and let Christ gently speak to the fears, pain, anxiety and fragility that accompany most patients into the hospital. Through pastoral conversation, prayer, anointing and in Holy Communion, patients open themselves to Christ’s healing, forgiving and reconciling touch. As Chaplains, we are privileged to be the instruments of God’s peace and grace on behalf of God’s loving and caring people.

Paul concludes his First Letter to the Corinthians by writing, “Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, be steadfast and immovable in carrying out the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” As Chaplains, our pledge to you who support this ministry and to the whole Church is that we remain steadfast on your behalf in the ongoing ministry of the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy.

James C. Ransom, EHC Chaplain
Lisa M. Ransom, EHC Associate Chaplain

Board of Directors

Since its founding in 1973 out of a ministry at St. Thomas, Hanover, the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy has faithfully provided the ministry of an Episcopal Chaplain to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. With the foresight and legacy of previous boards as guidance, the current Board of Directors is deeply committed to continuing the ministry of EHC and shaping its founding vision in light of changing times and needs. In 2019 the Board added new members, achieving a wider representation from congregations in both Vermont and New Hampshire.

The Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy Board of Directors:

Laura Kent, President	St. James Church, Woodstock, VT
Elizabeth Ruml, Secretary	St. Thomas Church, Hanover, NH
Arthur Young, Treasurer	St. Thomas Church, Hanover, NH
Elizabeth Lowell	St. Andrew’s Church, New London, NH
Mark Preece	Rector, St. Martin’s Church, Fairlee, VT
Paul Glover	St. Thomas Church, Hanover, NH
Elizabeth Higgins	St. Paul’s Church, White River Junction, VT

Reflections on the Ministry in 2019 and Beyond

An important part of the pastoral witness of Episcopal Hospital Chaplains is the commitment to visit patients on a predictable and regular basis of three days a week. The unpredictability of hospital life combined with longer stays at DHMC contributes to the value of dependable visits from the Chaplains. The recently opened Jack Byrne Center has increased the ministry of the Chaplains to those in hospice care. As the Center becomes better known this ministry will increase. When possible, the Chaplains contact the vicars and rectors of patients who are active members of Episcopal congregations, helping them to be more effective pastors to those they serve. The Chaplains support Episcopal candidates for Holy Orders and laity who participate in the hospital's Clinical Pastoral Education Program, helping them utilize the spiritual resources of our tradition. Episcopal patients with chronic diseases and who return frequently to the hospital for treatment have come to expect and depend on visits from Episcopal Chaplains. Many of these patients are inactive in any Episcopal congregation, thus the Episcopal Chaplains are their primary pastors. Because the current Chaplain has been in ministry at DHMC for more than three years, significant spiritual relationships have developed with these patients.

The Coronavirus Pandemic disrupted the ministry of chaplains as the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center prepared itself to treat COVID-19 patients and prevent the spread of the virus in the hospital. After a time of adjustment, and with the help of the Interfaith Chaplaincy Department, EHC Chaplains have been able to maintain their regular ministry schedule remotely. As precautions continue to be effective and testing becomes more available, regular visiting will be restored.

Ministry Statistics

	<u>2019</u>	<u>Three Year Average</u>
1. Number of Visiting Days	151	140
2. Hours Engaged in Ministry	448	429
3. Average Daily Episcopal Patient Census	6	7
4. Individual Patients Visited	447	410
5. Number of Visits Made	671	698

Financials for 2019

EHC operates on a frugal \$20,000 annual budget covering stipends for our two chaplains and related operating expenses. Our financials are reviewed annually by an independent third party.

Income

Dioceses & Parishes	6,390
Individuals	8,400
Grant for Ministry Development	5,000
Total Income	\$19,790

Expenses

Chaplains' Stipends	13,800
Travel	1,000
Insurance and fees	749
Ministry Development	2,563
Total Expenses	\$18,112

The Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy, a 501(c)(3), is governed by its instruments of incorporation, its bylaws, and by a "Letter of Understanding" with the Bishops of the Dioceses of New Hampshire and Vermont which outlines the relationship of EHC to The Episcopal Church. An "Agreement of Services of an Episcopal Chaplain" outlines the relationship of EHC to the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. "Letters of Agreement" between EHC and the Chaplain and Associate Chaplain are approved by the Canon for Transition and Community Engagement of the Diocese of New Hampshire and signed by the Bishop of New Hampshire.

How You Can Support the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy

The Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy is supported by The Episcopal Church in New Hampshire and Vermont, by grants, by individual clergy through their discretionary funds, by the outreach committees of parishes and missions, and by individual donors. We invite you to join in supporting EHC by making a personal gift and by encouraging your parish leaders to support EHC through parish outreach resources. Checks should be made out to “Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy” and mailed to: Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy, c/o St Thomas Church, 9 West Wheelock Street, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755. Gifts to EHC are tax deductible.

We Give Thanks for All Who Generously Support the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy

Support from Episcopal Congregations in New Hampshire & Vermont: All Saints’ Church, Littleton, NH; All Saints’ Church, Wolfeboro, NH; All Saints’ Church, Peterborough, NH; Christ Church, Montpelier, VT; Church of the Epiphany, Newport, NH; Holy Cross Church, Weare, NH; St. Andrew’s Church, Hopkinton, NH; St. Andrew’s Church, New London, NH; St. Andrew’s-in-the-Valley, Tamworth, NH; St. Barnabas Church, Berlin, NH; St. George’s Church, Durham, NH; St. James Church, Keene, NH; St. James Church, Laconia, NH; St. James Church, Woodstock, VT; St. Luke’s Church, Woodsville, NH; St. Luke’s Church, Chester, VT; St. Mark’s Church, Springfield, VT; St. Martin’s Church, Fairlee, VT; St. Mary’s Church, Northfield, VT; St. Matthew’s Church, Goffstown, NH; St. Paul’s Church, Concord, NH; St. Paul’s Church, Lancaster, NH; St. Paul’s Church, Wells, VT; St. Thomas & Grace Church, Brandon, VT; St. Thomas Church, Hanover, NH; Trinity Church, Meredith, NH; Zion Church, Manchester Center, VT.

Recent Support from Friends of EHC: Bruce & Shirley Avery; Alison Barkley; Jack & Ellen Barrett; Jim & Margaret Bays; Bill & Jeanine Berger; Sally Bower; Joan Bowers; Jean Brandt; James & Phyllis Bulmer; Colleen Cassady; Anne Collins; Onita Connington & Vijay Thadani; Louis & Sally Cornell; Sandra Curtis; Joseph Daly; Emily Duncan; Robert Ford; Andrew Garthwaite; Gene Garthwaite; Marilyn & Paul Glover; Walter Griggs; Anne Harms; Grace Hill; Dr. & Mrs. John Jayne; The Rev. Preston Kelsey II; Laura Kent; Michael Kopp; Dave & Judy Kurtz; Elizabeth Lowell; The Rev. Dewitt Mallary; Tim & Peggy Martin; Jane B. Masters; Bob & Judy McCarthy; David McCrillis; Jerry & Nancy Mitchell; Amy & Joseph Morel; Ruth Bornholdt Olsson; Anne Pattison; Alice Perry; Jeanie Plant; Mark Preece; Jim & Deb Ransom; Jill Rosier; Elizabeth Ruml; Becky Rylander; James & Kristi Saunders, Tim Sink & Cassie Horner, Marcia Stone; Malcolm Swenson; Doreen Williams; Eugene F. Yeates; Art & Jeanne Young.

Support from Dioceses: Dioceses of Vermont and New Hampshire, Grant from the Commission on Mission Resources of the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire.

The Reach of Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy: Episcopalians came to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in 2019 from 76 towns and villages in New Hampshire and 65 communities in Vermont.

New Hampshire: Allenstown, Alstead, Amherst, Antrim, Bath, Bethlehem, Bow, Brookline, Campton, Canaan, Canterbury, Center Conway, Center Sandwich, Charlestown, Chesterfield, Claremont, Colebrook, Concord, Contoocook, Conway, Cornish, Danbury, Elkins, Enfield, Etna, Franconia, Franklin, Gilmanton, Graham, Grantham, Hampton, Hancock, Hanover, Jefferson, Jaffrey, Keene, Laconia, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lempster, Littleton, Loudon, Lyme, Lyme Center, Manchester, Meredith, Melvin Village, Moultonborough, Nashua, Newbury, New London, Newport, North Conway, North Walpole, Orford, Peterborough, Piermont, Plainfield, Raymond, Readsboro, Rochester, Silver Lake, South Tamworth, Spofford, Springfield, Sunapee, Swanzey, Tilton, Troy, Warren, West Chesterfield, West Lebanon, West Stewartstown, Whitefield, Winchester, Woodsville.

Vermont: Alstead, Barre, Barton, Bellows Falls, Bennington, Bethel, Bradford, Branden, Brattleboro, Castleton, Cavendish, Chester, Derby, Dorset, East Arlington, East Dummerston, Essex Junction, Fairlee, Hartland, Island Pond, Ludlow, Lyndonville, Manchester Center, Marlboro, Melton, Mendon, Morgan, Newbury, Newport, Newark, Northfield, North Pomfret, Norwich, Orleans, Peru, Poulet, Poultney, Proctorsville, Putney, Quechee, Reading, Randolph, Rochester, Rutland, St. Johnsbury, Sharon, Sheffield, South Londonderry, South Pomfret, South Strafford, Sunderland, Sutton, Thetford Center, Tunbridge, Wallingford, Websterville, Wells, West Burke, West Dover, Westminster, White River Junction, Wilder, Winchester, Windsor, Woodstock.

And Beyond: Florida, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Uganda.

Help us Find You: When coming to DHMC for treatment, please help us find you by registering as an Episcopalian upon admission. And you can always call the Chaplain’s Office to request an Episcopal Chaplain.