

Spirituality

- Our inner life
- Whatever we value above all else
- That which gives our life meaning (keeps us going)

Spirituality is often *but not always* expressed through Religion.

The goal of spiritual care is to encourage patients to utilize their spirituality as a resource in their healing. To that end, chaplains are an integral part of the interdisciplinary team. Along with the medical staff and social workers we provide a holistic approach to patient care. Each person has the right to have their spiritual needs met.

“New Approaches to Spiritual Care” is an ongoing project to effectively integrate spiritual care into most aspects of clinical care by forming strategic alliances with clinicians, especially nurses.

An interdisciplinary team of professionals working with Pastoral Care initiated the “Bereavement Guide Program” (or “You are not Alone”) with the Commitment to have a trained professional (usually a chaplain) to offer bereavement and supportive literature to grieving persons at the time of each patient death.

Pastoral Care with the support and cooperation of the Senior Services administration and the Office of Development created a full-time senior services chaplain who works with independent and assisted living residents, dementia residents, and Senior Health Clinic patients and families.

Clinical Pastoral Education (clinical training for ministers who work in specialized settings) is once again offered by an on-site educator with CPE interns supplementing and extending the work of professional chaplains.