

October 5, 2015

Dear <>:

The fourth week of October marks the annual celebration of Pastoral Care Week, and the North Carolina Chaplains' Association wants to thank you for your support of spiritual care professionals in your institution. Professional chaplains provide sensitive, thoughtful support to patients, families, and staff during times of crisis and uncertainty. They are trained to work with persons of any faith tradition as well as those who do not profess any faith. They offer spiritual assessment that can complement the physical, emotional, and mental health assessments routinely performed in health care facilities. They also serve as representatives of that which is beyond the physical realm, offering a transcendent connection that is much needed in times of trauma and unexpected crisis.

The North Carolina Chaplains' Association encourages and supports our chaplains' achievement of the highest level of professional standards. Well-trained chaplains-who are comfortable working in stressful environments-daily bring a calming presence and a consistent, nonjudgmental spiritual dimension to the care provided in institutions like yours, often without ever calling attention to themselves.

Please consider a special note of encouragement to your professional spiritual caregivers during Pastoral Care Week 2015. The dates for this year are Oct. 25-31. Thank you again for recognizing the importance of hiring trained, skilled and compassionate spiritual care professionals to serve in your institution.

Sincerely,

Rev. Beth Jackson-Jordan, M.Div., Ed.D., BCC

President, North Carolina Chaplains' Association