



Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy A Report to the Church Spring 2023

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 a pastoral presence and spiritual connection for Episcopalians at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) during times of illness and vulnerability.

From Our Bishops

The collaboration of the Dioceses of Vermont and New Hampshire to provide pastoral care to Episcopal patients at DHMC for the last 25+ years is now a mirror for the many ways our two Dioceses are working together. We have been changed in these last three years by the pandemic, and national and world events. The church is changing to keep up and adapt to the changes impacting our lives of faith. We are called to strengthen our spiritual, ethical, and moral decisions for the common good and the dignity of every human being

And yet, even with great change, comes the comfort of the familiar practices and service we offer to those seeking spiritual renewal and strength. EHC is a beacon of hope that helps the Spiritual Health Department at DHMC do the work God gives them to do every day. The EHC chaplain joins with all the Chaplains at DHMC to bring pastoral care and support to the patients and staff. Collaboration and mutual respect are at the heart of this ministry.

As your Bishops, we give thanks to God for the ongoing leadership and wisdom of the Board of Directors of Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy. Because of their communication efforts in New Hampshire and Vermont, more and more of our churches are supporting the financial needs of EHC as well as reaching out to the Chaplain when they have a parishioner in the hospital.

The Rt. Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop of Vermont and The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop of New Hampshire

From the Board of Directors

"Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." This classic epigram (1849) aptly characterizes the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy. Over this past year we have had significant transitions: Our beloved Chaplain, the Rev. Canon Jim Ransom, retired this fall. The clear-sighted and empathetic Rev. Susan Eibner stepped into Jim's shoes without missing a beat. We celebrated healthcare workers and the change of chaplains with the Rev. Frank Mächt, the Director of Spiritual Health at DHMC, in a lovely service at St. Thomas in Hanover. We elected a new EHC Board President, Paul W. Glover III, to take over the reins from the retiring Laura Kent, and added Dr. Gerald Davis, MD from the Diocese of VT, to the BOD. Yet the EHC presence continues at DHMC weekly, as it has for the past 25 years.

Chaplaincy is about so much more than religion; it recognizes and honors the human spirit in each one of us. Thus, as EHC addresses the spiritual and pastoral care of patients, DHMC's chaplaincy office is aptly known as the Department of Spiritual Health, acknowledging this critical component of a person's overall health and well-being. Together with the Spiritual Health staff, our EHC chaplains continue to focus on the health of body, mind, and spirit, as they have for the past quarter century. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Reflection from The Rev. Curtis E. Metzger, Rector All Saints' and EHC BOD

As the rector of a small parish 2 hours away, I am so grateful for the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy! Many of my parishioners end up at DHMC because of the hospital's medical specialties, and though I would love to visit them frequently during their stay, it is just impossible given time and distance. I view Chaplain Susan as an extension of my pastoral care and link to their parish back home and rejoice that she is there.

The Beginning of a New Story from the EHC Chaplain - The Rev. Susan Eibner

Becoming the Episcopal Chaplain seemed like a simple decision in the fall of 2022. After all, 20 years ago, I was introduced to the work of Chaplaincy through my time as a Clinical Pastoral Education student during the summer of 2001 at DHMC. I had traveled north from the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN thinking only that I was going home to New Hampshire.

Fast forward 20 years, these early months (November 2022 - February 2023) have shown me that DHMC staff and patients are still showing me the roots and blessings of vulnerability and courage. The biblical story is played out repeatedly every day at DHMC - life, death, resurrection. I meet women and men in the depths of uncertainty, and witness the faith and strength of family members, the Martha's, Mary's, and Lazarus' who cross my path.

I never know what I will encounter walking into a patient's room. Most of the time people are glad that I am there, but even when they are not, I return to check in with them until they are discharged. And most of the time by the time they are going home we are on a first name basis. I respect their boundaries and keep visits short. But I recognize for most, seeing someone who is not medical staff and is simply a caring listener is a positive time for both of us.

One couple had not returned to church after the Pandemic (and there were a few problems with the dynamics of the church pre pandemic), but they had previously been very involved. On my third visit, I spoke to the patient about the needs and transitions he would face when he went home. And then I asked, "You have told me there is a new priest at your church. I could call her and break the ice so that when you're ready, you can get in touch with her?" He responded, "I think you are right, and your visits have changed my mind and given me hope." His wife quietly smiled while clapping her hands silently! It is those moments that bring joy!

It is the power of how our stories connect us to our mutual humanity, especially in times of pain, uncertainty, and chaos, that has shown me that God guided me to this new ministry. It makes no difference whether I meet with someone once or three times a week, the stories become etched on my heart. Story has been a guiding principle of my life. And it is a privilege and honor to listen to the people of Vermont, New Hampshire, and beyond who have shared their stories of pain, fear, blessings, faith, hopes and dreams.

Each story becomes a prayer. As a Companion of the Holy Cross, I have learned that prayer is the essential super power of any life of faith. I use that super power with every person I meet at DHMC.

2023 Chaplaincy Statistics

Number of Visiting Days by Chaplains	142
Individual patients visited	349
Visits made	608

Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy Board of Directors

The Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy 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.

The Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy Board of Directors:

Gerald S. Davis, MD	Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, VT
Paul W. Glover	St. Thomas Church, Hanover, NH
Laura L. Kent	St. James Church, Woodstock, VT
Elizabeth M. Lowell	St. Andrew’s Church, New London, NH
Curtis Metzger	Rector, All Saints’ Church, Littleton, NH
Mark Preece	Diocese of VT
Elizabeth H. Ruml, Secretary	St. Thomas Church, Hanover, NH
Arthur L. Young, Treasurer	St. Thomas Church, Hanover, NH

Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy Financials

Strengthening our cash reserves has been an objective in the last few years. Thanks to our many Friends, our Bishops, and Episcopal parishes, we received generous donations totaling \$24,390 which exceeded our operating expenses by about 10%. All members of our Board of Directors financially support our ministry.

We begin this year with confidence that we have the financial support of our community for us to perform our mission successfully. We will pay our Chaplains in accordance with the NH Diocesan Guidelines and we are excited to be able to fund future initiatives introduced by our new Chaplain.

<u>Income</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
Dioceses & Parishes	\$ 9,625	\$ 9,000
Friends	<u>14,765</u>	<u>13,500</u>
Total Income	\$ 24,390	\$ 22,500
<u>Expenses</u>		
Chaplains’ Stipend & Travel	\$ 19,945	\$20,300
Insurance & Operating	1,982	2,200
Mission Development	<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	\$22,427	\$22,500

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 encouraging your parish to support EHC. Checks should be made out to "Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy" and mailed to: Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy, 9 West Wheelock Street, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755. Gifts to EHC are tax deductible.

Securing EHC's Future

To remain steadfast in our mission requires, quite simply, a dedicated Board of Directors, caring and competent chaplains, and a sustainable operating budget. By including the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy in your estate plans - a bequest or IRA designation - donors can ensure a pastoral and sacramental presence for the years to come. Please consider a managed gift to EHC with a sustainable annual return.

Help us find you at DHMC

Please register as an Episcopalian upon admission when coming to DHMC for treatment. Additionally, you can always call the hospital's Chaplaincy Office (603.650.7939) to request an Episcopal Chaplain.

Our Chaplains visited Episcopalians hospitalized at DHMC from 55 towns in Vermont and 55 towns in New Hampshire, as well as patients from California, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island:

Vermont: Arlington,
Barnard, Bellows Falls,
Bethel, Bondville,
Brattleboro, Bridgewater
Corners, Cavendish,
Chelsea, Chester,
Cuttingville, East
Montpelier, Fairlee, East
Burke, East Hardwick,
Groton, Guilford, Highgate
Center, Island Pond,
Killington, Lake Elmore,
Manchester Center,
Middletown Springs,
Montpelier, Morgan, North
Troy, Norwich, Orange,
Peacham, Perkinsville,
Peru, Pownal, Proctorville,
Quechee, Randolph,
Reading, Roxbury,

Rutland, Sharon,
Shelburne, South
Newfane, South Orange,
South Royalton,
Springfield, Taftsville,
Thetford Center, Wells,
Wells River, West Rutland,
White River Junction,
Wilder, Wilmington,
Windsor, Woodbury and
Woodstock.

New Hampshire: Andover,
Barrington, Bethlehem,
Boscawen, Bradford,
Canaan, Charlestown,
Chester, Chesterfield,
Claremont, Concord,
Contoocook,
Cornish, Dover, Enfield,

Etna, Fitzwilliam,
Franconia, Grafton,
Grantham, Hancock,
Hanover, Holderness,
Jaffrey, Jefferson, Keene,
Laconia, Lebanon ,
Lincoln, Littleton, Lyme,
Manchester, Meriden,
Merrimack, Monroe,
Nashua, Newburg, New
Hampton, New London,
Newport, Peterborough,
Pittsburg, Plainfield,
Plymouth, Springfield,
Sunapee, Surry, Sutton,
Walpole, Warner,
Washington, West
Lebanon, Whitefield,
Wilmot and
Woodsville