



# Working to Affirm Dignity.

Please support our efforts.

“Spiritual Care encompasses so much more than the compassionate visitation of the sick or incarcerated. It also informs and inspires our community through programs and opportunities for in-depth conversations that are the essence of InterFaith Works.”

—David E. Pasinski  
*Executive Director, Huntington Family Center, Inc.*

“I think about recent world events based largely on misconceptions and religious intolerance... and then I think about how blessed we are with an organization right in our midst that stands for religious harmony and a mission of bringing faith communities together in mutual respect and understanding. What better time than now to support InterFaith Works.”

—Aminy I. Audi  
*President & CEO, L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc.*



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United Way  
of Central New York  
A United Way Agency

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# Spiritual Care





## About Us

**InterFaith Works' Spiritual Care Program works to affirm the dignity and worth of all persons and assure that they have access to spiritual support. The Spiritual Care Program meets the spiritual needs of the hospitalized, the institutionalized, and the imprisoned through the listening presence of chaplains representing many faiths.**

The Spiritual Care Program strives to offer hope, spiritual strength, and healing through compassionate presence. By providing religious rituals and sacraments, as well as opportunities for study and growth appropriate to a person's own faith, the Spiritual Care Program ensures that human dignity is affirmed during difficult times. InterFaith Works' Spiritual Care Program focuses on faith traditions, but also on the unique spirituality of each person, because an individual's spirituality is comprised of many things that bring meaning to their life - religion, family and friends, the arts or even nature - and in times of sickness, stress, fear, or despair these things can be sources of comfort.

Our chaplains provide spiritual care not only in local hospitals, but also in nursing homes, children's detention centers, and mental health and correctional facilities. Within those walls they have heard the voices of despair and pain, fear and anxiety, loss and regret. In turn they offer empathy, along with a strong sense of trust, attention, and compassion to anyone in need of the assurance that they are not alone and that someone cares for them.

Chaplains in the Spiritual Care Program also assist the staff of the facilities where they work in reflecting on the spiritual and ethical dimensions of their responsibilities and offer opportunities to express emotional, spiritual, and ethical concerns related to their work.

The Spiritual Care Program also provides support and continuing education to clergy and lay pastoral caregivers through training programs and our annual Spiritual Care Day Conference.

## Our Work

The Spiritual Care Program provides supervised chaplains of many faiths to care for the spiritual needs of those in area health care and correctional facilities. Currently, chaplains provide spiritual care to over 70,000 persons annually in long-term care, acute care, correctional and psychiatric facilities. In keeping with the mission of InterFaith Works, we affirm the dignity and value of each individual and we respect the right of each faith group to hold its values and traditions. The Spiritual Care Program is an opportunity to provide an expression of the faith community's caring concern for all individuals through visits to those who might otherwise be unable to participate in their religious practice.



To fulfill our goal of providing ongoing support and education for clergy and lay pastoral caregivers, we offer a variety of spiritual care education programs throughout the year through local institutions and religious congregations. In addition, we host our **Spiritual Care Day Conference**, which is open to clergy, lay leaders and volunteers from all over Central New York and often features nationally known speakers on a diverse range of spiritual care topics.

## Our Scope & Reach... Did You Know?

- We have 17 chaplains representing numerous and diverse faith traditions currently conducting regular visits to our service locations.
- Throughout our history, Spiritual Care chaplains have visited many thousands of persons in long-term care, acute care, correctional, and psychiatric facilities.
- Our **Spiritual Care Day Conference** attracted more than 200 attendees in 2008; thousands have joined us for these conferences since the first one was held nearly two decades ago.
- The Spiritual Care Program receives oversight from the InterFaith Works Spiritual Care Advisory Board, which is comprised of community members from a wide variety of faith traditions with experience in spiritual care. This Board ensures that the standards of spiritual care are being met, and provides guidance on any specific areas of concern identified by the Program Director.

