

The **CIRCLE OF CARE**

is established in each Training Center after the initial training is completed. All Commissioned Pastoral Care Givers are included in this group meeting once a month. Actions include:

- ◆ *Debriefing after pastoral visits;*
- ◆ *Worship together to deepen spiritual life;*
- ◆ *Benefit from continuing education opportunities;*
- ◆ *Participate in peer mentoring;*
- ◆ *Report ministry information;*
- ◆ *Deepen community;*
- ◆ *Participate in retreats and quiet days*

“The Circle of care is where the ongoing life of the Community of Hope is sustained.”

Community of Hope ministries :

- ◆ *Outreach to the Parish*
- ◆ *Homebound*
- ◆ *Nursing homes*
- ◆ *Hospices*
- ◆ *Retirement homes*
- ◆ *Outpatient clinics*
- ◆ *Prisons*
- ◆ *Women’s ministries*
- ◆ *Youth ministries*
- ◆ *Homeless and the Underserved*
- ◆ *Mission trips*



Contact

For more information or to register for classes, please contact Barbara Lentz at 262-691-4137, jandb1624@sbcglobal.net or

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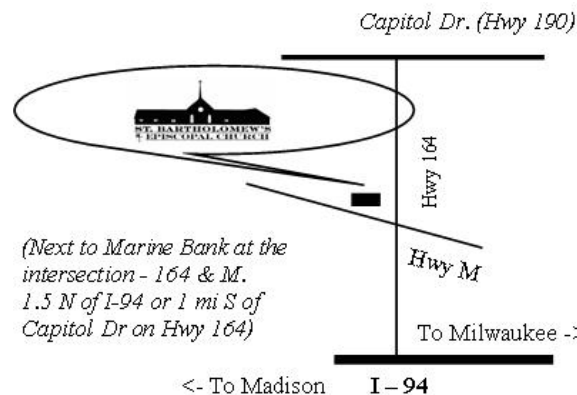
The Community



of Hope International

“...a school for God’s service...”

Prologue, The Rule of Benedict



The Community of Hope training awakens trainees to God's call on each of our lives by helping individuals discover and better understand their own spiritual gifts for ministry. Each participant is encouraged to make this experience a journey into wholeness, to use this opportunity to explore a "rule of life," practice sacred silence, Christian meditation, compassionate listening, pastoral identity and *lectio divina*, all within the context of Benedictine spirituality. This experience builds community and develops spiritually centered pastoral caregivers.

The 14-week, 42-hour Curriculum includes:

- 1) **Introduction to the Community of Hope**
- 2) **Theology of Pastoral Care** Characteristics, goals and functions of pastoral care ministry and identification of the Pastoral Care Givers' needs;
- 3) **Benedictine Spirituality**—How the Rule of St. Benedict continues to be a relevant model for strengthening spirituality, building Christian communities committed to pastoral care;
- 4) **Listening Skills**—Compassionate, intentional listening in caregiving and in community;
- 5) **Prayer, Christian Meditation and Silence** Participate in Christian meditation to enhance the ability to hear God's voice, obey His word and build community;
- 6) **The Pastoral Visit, Boundaries and Pastoral Identity**—Development of the pastoral skills of observation, listening, sensitivity, compassion, prayer, and privacy;

- 7) **Confidentiality and Debriefing**—Learning to honor privacy and how to care for one another in pastoral ministry;
- 8) **Motivational Spiritual Gifts**— Recognize your own motivational spiritual gifts, the value of the gifts of others, and relate your gifts to pastoral care ministry;
- 9) **Grief – Coping With Loss** – Understanding personal loss and grief and the importance of the ministry of presence;
- 10) **Spiritual Care for Seniors**— Understanding the needs of seniors for living a fulfilling life;
- 11) **Care for the Caregiver** –Identify and honor your needs, limitations, and boundaries; relate Benedictine spirituality to self-care;
- 12) **Discovering Who You Are**—Identify and appreciate various spiritual gifts in community and their relationship to pastoral care ministry and their impact on building community;
- 13) **Commitment to Ministry**—Commitment, stability, obedience, humility and perseverance as Benedictine values that are essential to pastoral care ministry and community.
- 14) **Retreat**—A time of personal reflection and formation within community.
- 15) **Community of Hope Internship**— A three-month internship after completing the Initial Training will include pastoral care visits followed by debriefing, and participation in at least three Circle of Care meetings or its equivalent. This internship is a prerequisite before commissioning.



A Brief History of The Community of Hope

The training originated in the Diocese of Texas at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and grew rapidly.

As The Community of Hope grew to over eighty-six centers, the need for decentralization was recognized and a regionalizing process began in 2004. Leaders met at the Annual Leadership Conference in June, 2005 to organize a new structure:

The Community of Hope International.

The essential philosophy and mission remain the same, while allowing each region to adapt the program to its specific needs.

The volunteer Pastoral Care Givers remain united in prayer and community as their ministries lead them to serve in the congregation and in the wider community. The program remains rooted in Benedictine Spirituality and is based on the classic "clinical pastoral education" model used in many hospitals to train chaplains.

The training is not limited exclusively to Episcopalians but, rather, is open to and enriched by the representation of many denominations.



"Listen with the ear of your heart."

St. Benedict