

LUTHER HOSPITAL

1221 Whipple Street
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4105

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Center: General Hospital
General location: Medium sized city
Original CPE affiliation: ACPE

PROGRAM HISTORY

Year of first program: 1978 Full accreditation: 1978
Number or estimate of students who have been enrolled in the program: 175
Number or estimate of total units of CPE completed: 45
Present Supervisor(s): P. Michael Carlson

Levels of CPE offered: CPE – previously Basic and Advanced.
Extended units: Yes. Since 1995 a two extended unit residency program.

Persons instrumental in establishing CPE program:

Names, title/position, agency

Rev. Orwoll (Oz) Anderson – Chair, PCC

Richard Green – Vice-President, Human Resources, Luther Hospital

Michael Blanchard – Vice-President, Marketing, Luther Hospital

Dennis Pope – Vice-President, Luther Midelfort

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT STATICS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Lay students: 15
Female students: 75%
Minority students: 2
International students: 2

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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CPE AT LUTHER HOSPITAL: When Luther Hospital decided to employ a chaplain and begin a Chaplaincy Department in 1976, they were not looking for a CPE Supervisor and had rejected the idea because they thought it meant having full-time residents. When I interviewed with them, I expressed that I wanted to be able to supervise students, and when I explained that we would offer two units a year – a full-time summer unit and a part-time extended unit, that was okay with them, and I was offered the position. After getting settled, I began the process of getting the hospital accredited as a CPE Center and getting a Volunteer Evening Chaplaincy Program organized.

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN IT'S DEVELOPMENT: It has not always been easy to be both a chaplain and a CPE Supervisor because people wondered why I was not more involved in direct patient/family care. I have sought to communicate about that whenever and however I could, and that has improved recently.

What led to beginning in August 1999 a full-time Residency Program for five students, was the need for, and appreciation of, pastoral care in terms of crisis care and also daily helping patients with emotional/spiritual support. We have been building up to that when in 1995 we began a Residency Program of two extended units of 32 hours weekly which was in session from September through May. With that we have had a ministry experience program that dovetailed with our CPE units so that we kept two or three students on to do ministry when the CPE unit had ended and before the next one began. There have been modest stipends involved with those CPE/experience programs and we have taken the step to being competitive with other centers with the full-time Residency Program. The Medicare Passthrough for Education has been an important factor in our hospital choosing to further develop CPE as compared with adding staff chaplains.

PROGRAM FUNDING – PRESENT, PAST, SOURCES: Our program is funded by student fees and the hospital. As mentioned above, the Medicare Passthrough for Education is a key part of that. We also have a very modest development fund of approximately \$25,000 which the hospital may at some time choose to significantly develop into an endowment effort.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE CENTER'S CPE PROGRAM: There are only a few unique features to our program.

1. For a number of years we placed one or two students at a nursing home for the primary ministry experience and developed a modest contract for service with the nursing home.
2. We developed the “supervised pastoral experience” program mentioned above which fills in the gaps between CPE units and which we will utilize with our Residency Program of three full-time units. Three of the five residents will be offered the opportunity to gain ministry experience during the summer months.
3. For four years we have had a Residency Program of two extended units of 32 hours weekly which met our need to have chaplains here for longer than one unit and which helped students be involved for 8 months and have a part-time ministry elsewhere.

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We are a CPE center similar to other CPE centers in acute care medical centers. We have tried to offer high quality, caring, stimulating and affirming CPE to the students who have chosen to have a CPE experience at Luther Hospital.