Centra’s Clinical Pastoral Education Program Receives Accreditation

Centra’s Clinical Pastoral Education program has received accreditation from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, INC. (ACPE) Following a site review this summer, Centra has received a ten year accreditation with no notations.

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE) is a professional association committed to advancing experience-based theological education for seminarians, clergy and laypersons of diverse cultures, ethnic groups and faith traditions. ACPE establishes standards, certifies supervisors and accredits centers to provide programs of clinical pastoral education (CPE) in varied settings. ACPE approved programs promote the integration of personal history, faith tradition and the behavioral sciences in the practice of spiritual care.

“Becoming an ACPE accredited Clinical Pastoral Education Center allows Centra to design curriculum and offer internships, residencies, and eventually supervisory education programs in such a way that best meets the needs of the students who participate in the program, as well as the needs of the people and community Centra serves,” said Rev. Sandie Greene, Manager of the Clinical Pastoral Care Education Program at Centra.

Centra’s Pastoral Education program currently offers an internship which is a 14 week program comprised of 400 hours, and a residency program where the focus of the curriculum for the first year of residency is completion of Level II CPE. The center’s curriculum for chaplain residents is designed to assist residents in addressing the outcomes for clinical pastoral education. The residency year is made up of three educational units, twelve to fifteen weeks in length, and several educational modules. Centra currently has 4 full-time residents that meet with patients, pray with them, read scripture, sing, offer companionship and help patients understand the meaning of their illness. Residents also support staff in the stresses of their work and home life and provide care to family members.

The CPE learning experience is unique and full of possibilities, offering an inward and outward journey of self. Clinical Pastoral Education provides students with conceptual frameworks from the behavioral sciences and pastoral theology. The curriculum features educational structures that are based on an “action-reflection-action” model. This model utilizes a combination of clinical experience, written reflection, verbatim, skills seminar and collegial interactions as a basis for theological reflection, supervision and pastoral formation and competence.

To obtain accreditation through the ACPE, Centra had to meet standards outlined by the U.S Secretary of Education through the U.S. Department of Education in the field of clinical pastoral education. The ACPE is nationally recognized as an accrediting agency.

For more information about Centra’s Clinical Pastoral Education program, please visit them online at clergy.centrahealth.com.