

Participate in the Community of Hope

Who are the participants?

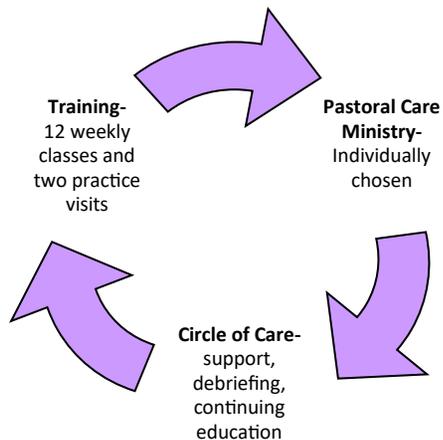
Those interested in Community of Hope often are seeking to:

- * Deepen their faith
- * Discern or act upon God's call to a pastoral care ministry
- * Strengthen the foundations of a current pastoral care ministry

Steps to participate.

- * Complete an application
- * Obtain a referral from your priest/pastor
- * Take part in an interview

Three Components of COH



Training

- Benedictine Spirituality
- Theology of Pastoral Care
- Pastoral Identity
- Listening Skills
- Prayer, Christian Meditation and Silence
- Motivational Spiritual Gifts
- The Pastoral Visit
- Confidentiality and Debriefing
- Family Systems
- Grief: Coping with Loss
- Pastoral Care for Seniors
- Care for the Caregiver
- Commitment to Ministry

Circle of Care

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

- Debriefing after pastoral visits
- Worship together to deepen spiritual life
- Benefit from continuing education
- Deepen community

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL SESSION.
FIRST CLASS BEGINS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2013, 6-8 PM**

The Community of Hope International

St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
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The COMMUNITY OF HOPE
International

United in
prayer,

shaped by
Benedictine
spirituality,

equipped
for and
serving in
pastoral
care
ministries.

The Community of Hope

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 Mission of Community of Hope is to:

Create and sustain Christian communities of lay pastoral caregivers united in prayer, shaped by Benedictine spirituality, equipped for and serving in pastoral care ministries.

Pastoral Care (as defined by the Community of Hope)

"...is when a person is being "present" in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group for the purpose of consciously, or perhaps unconsciously, representing God to them and seeking to respond to their spiritual needs."

What People are Saying

"The Community of Hope Lay Pastoral Caregiver Program has enriched the Spiritual Lives of numerous patients. The graduates of the program provide skilled Pastoral Care throughout our ProHealth Care Hospitals, Hospice and Home Care. Partnering with Community of Hope continues to be a true blessing."

Rev. Dr. Dan Geeding, PHC Pastoral Care Coordinator

"Community of Hope equipped me to become a 'visitor' with people in the hospital. I look forward to my weekly visits with patients and my wife will tell you that I come home having been "blessed" with those I have visited. Community of Hope 'opened the door' for me to do something I did not think I could do."

James Reeve, COH Lay Pastoral Caregiver

"The Community of Hope pastoral care training, based on The Benedictine Rule and Spirituality, was a fantastic experience for me. As a Master of Divinity Student at Nashotah House Theological Seminary, I discovered new dimensions to pastoral care ministry. This small group study will be a great resource for my future parish ministry. Through COHI, one learns that pastoral care ministry is the ministry of all people. The Lord Jesus equips those called to this ministry through Work, Prayer, and Study. Participants learn to love and care for each other as Jesus taught His disciples."

James Brzezinski, Priest

"The Community of Hope experience provided outstanding Christ centered training that enabled me to be more effective in ministry with my family, my church, and the community. Additionally, it challenged me through the Holy Spirit, to discover a new ministry opportunity, serving as volunteer lay chaplain in a senior citizen community."

Carolyn Hutsen, COH Lay Pastoral Caregiver

A Brief History

The training originated in the Diocese of Texas at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in 1994 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 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 Caregivers 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 pastoral care givers.

The training is not limited exclusively to any creed but is open to and enriched by the representation of many denominations.

The Community of Hope program in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee began at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church in 2003. Since its inception 203 lay pastoral caregivers from 82 churches have been trained and commissioned.