

ACCC Special Competency in Grief for Board Certified Chaplains

Syllabus

The Association of Certified Christian Chaplains began a program in partnership with the Grief Recovery Institute to provide a specialty in Grief. After GRI significantly raised the price as well as the number of chaplains required to field a class, ACCC began writing its own curriculum by chaplains, for chaplains. This curriculum is wholly unique to those professionals who provide spiritual care to others as board-certified chaplains. As an association, we continue to honor the specialty gained through our previous program but have transitioned all new classes to this new format. We have enjoyed tremendously positive feedback from attendees after attending our 21 hour class.

- Course duration – 21 hours
- Schedule – 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday
 - Times are Central Standard Time
 - 1 hour break for lunch

Concepts Covered in the training

- Grief Defined – an expansion of understanding
- Over 40 types of Common Grief
- The Emotions of Grief
- The unhelpful things people say
- The Heart knocks out the Brain
- Introduction of the Grief Cauldron
 - Discovery exercise – Small Group Discussion
- Grief fuels addiction – The Boiling Cauldron
- Small Group Research project – Grief Experiences in World Regions
- Types of Grief
 - Common
 - Disenfranchised

- Complicated
- Anticipatory
- Delayed
- Traumatic
- Collective
- Stages of Grief?
- Process from Stimulus to Action
- Grief and the Total Person – Small Group Discussion
 - Grief Experiences in the Body
 - Grief Experiences in the Mind
 - Grief Experiences in the Spirit
- The Role of Chaplain on the Interdisciplinary Team in treating grief
- ACEs
- ACEs and the Brain
- Suicide and Grief
- PTSD, Moral Injury
- Making Space

Items in blue are the exercises and items utilized by the chaplain in their online and in-person groups with patients in their care.

Course Requirements

- Must be a Board-Certified Chaplain who is current on Dues and Continuing Education with ACCC
- Must have a computer running the latest version of Microsoft Teams
- Must participate in 100% of the class including large group and small group discussions in breakout rooms
- Must successfully pass the course exam covering the materials presented in the class. This will be completed with your small group together

Course Instructor



Richard DeFord, M.Div., board-certified chaplain with both mental health and grief specialties as recognized by the Veteran's Administration. DeFord is a board-certified pastoral counselor and is also certified in "Psychospiritual Transformational Change: The Satir Model" as a Clinical Pastoral Psychotherapist. He is also certified in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and certified in both in Psychological First Aid and Spiritual First Aid. DeFord is the manager of Spiritual Care at Fitzgibbon Hospital in Marshall, MO. where he provides spiritual care in the hospital, behavioral health unit and the hospital's hospice program as well as the hospital's owned 99-bed long-term care facility. He is the Executive Director of ACCC. DeFord has been in ministry since 1989 and is endorsed as a chaplain by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He serves as the associate pastor of Katy Park Baptist Church in Sedalia, MO. as well as on the D-Mort chaplain team for the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. He also serves as a law enforcement chaplain with the Sedalia Police Department. To date, DeFord has led more than 2,000 individuals through grief in groups, one-on-one and online.