



**Department of Pastoral Care Staff
and Volunteers Always Available,
On-Duty or On-Call**



The Spiritual Side of Healing

Spiritual Care and Support

Department of Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care and You

Chaplains understand the relationship of spirituality to healthcare, which enables them to be a resource for the patient and their families, as well as the Hospital staff. Services include counseling, bioethical consultations, bereavement support, religious services, and assistance with advance directives and end-of-life decision making.

Chaplains are unique among health professionals in that their caring task is primarily focused on religion, faith, and spirituality. From this spiritual dimension, chaplains support patients and families with a sensitive and caring approach to their diverse spiritual and emotional needs.

Chaplains nurture well-being, foster hope, and guide people through the transitions that accompany health-related issues.

Meditation and Prayer

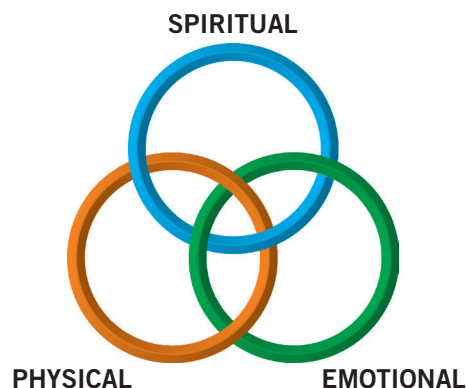
The **Chapel** provides an inviting place for contemplation, reflection, prayer, and fostering spiritual awareness. Located near the receptionist in the main lobby of the Blue Zone (1625 N George Mason Dr.), it is a respite in time of need, available to everyone 24/7. Services are also held in the Chapel and broadcast to patient rooms (see brochure insert for times and faiths).

The **Healing Garden**, located outside across the street from the main lobby of the Blue Zone, provides another quiet space for meditation and prayer.



Department of
Pastoral Care

“...an integral part of health, recovery, and support of the patient.”



Patient Health Support

The Chaplain Team is the spiritual arm of Virginia Hospital Center’s patient health support. We believe that spirituality, in the broadest sense, is an integral and holistic part of health, recovery, and support of the patient.

There are ordained on-staff Chaplains, volunteer Chaplains, and patient companions. In addition, there are clergy of all faiths on call.

Each member of the Chaplain Team has had intensive training to serve Hospital patients in need. We work closely with the Hospital staff to identify those in critical need and attempt to be available at all times.

Programs Supporting Pastoral Care Outreach

Spiritual and emotional care for patients and families

- Patient visitation – all Departments
- Companionship for critically-ill patients
- Chapel always available for prayer and meditation
- Chapel services – Protestant, Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, other
- Chapel services broadcast to patient rooms
- Continuing education of the Hospital staff, Chaplain Team, as well as outreach to local clergy



Chaplain Team Visitation

Spiritual and emotional care for patients and families is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by the Chaplain Team, either on-duty or on-call. Patients are personally visited in every department by Chaplains. Support is interfaith, caring for everyone, no matter their beliefs.

Special emphasis is provided for priority needs, including ICU and palliative care patients. Chaplains are part of the interdisciplinary Palliative Care Team devoted to relieving suffering and improving quality of life for patients.

Patient Companion Program

The Chaplain Team provides Patient Companionship for critically-ill patients. These Patient Companion volunteers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to provide support to the patient and family in critical need.

The patient companion brings comfort and support to the patient and family, providing spiritual care as defined by the patient. Whether in silence or conversation, their presence is patient focused caring.