

# The Spiritual Caregiver

A Newsletter of the Ecumenical Institute for Pastoral Care



Fall 2022

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

-Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

## The Word is Out!!!!

Roger Cauthon, ACPE Certified Educator

The Ecumenical Institute for CPE has the mission to offer Clinical Pastoral Education to our area in rural Northwest Iowa. While this mission is being fulfilled an interesting phenomenon has also happened. The news of the CPE possibilities through Ecumenical Institute has "leaked"! It seems that people both within Northwest Iowa and around the Midwest and even nationwide have heard of the program through Ecumenical Institute. One student applicant wrote the following:

*I have reached out to eighteen CPE programs in fourteen states over the past 3 weeks. From this group, I narrowed my interest down to ten CPE programs, and with further research as well as both email and phone conversations down to six, which is now down to one -- Ecumenical Institute for Clinical Pastoral Education.*

Given what has been happening with applications from students across the country, Jennifer Hall, ACPE Certified Educator, and I reflected on the students in 2021. Consider this breakdown of where students are located:

Florida	3	Minnesota	1
South Dakota	8	Illinois	1
Iowa	14	Tennessee	2
Virginia	1	West Virginia	1
Wisconsin	2	Maine	1
Michigan	3	Kentucky	1

I believe that the outreach of Ecumenical Institute to offer pastoral education training as Clinical Pastoral Education is very much in demand. Your support of the Ecumenical Institute is making this training for clergy, pastors, chaplains, and lay people possible.

If you know of someone interested in finding an ACPE Center, please share the good news of the Ecumenical Institute. The web site is [www.ecumenicalinstitute.org](http://www.ecumenicalinstitute.org)

## EI STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Michael Agnew

During the spring and summer of 2022, I enrolled in a unit of C.P.E., and I had a great experience! As a pastor serving in a local church, I rarely get feedback or suggestions for growth in my ministry of pastoral care, but C.P.E. has given me the opportunity to examine and get feedback from a peer group on my pastoral ministry unlike any other continuing education I have had. Our certified director, Roger Cauthon, was great at leading our group through the unit with insightful reflections, didactics, and assignments. The assignments mostly consisted of verbatims, which

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## Leaving a Legacy for Your Community

**Times are  
definitely changing.**

**Our nation's future  
is unknown.**

**Our future  
with God is known.**

Is there something you can do for EI to continue our legacy of faith based training?

The value of some assets like farm land is high. What planning can you do this year to optimize your taxes and also help your favorite charities including EI?

Contact Denise for more information at 712-225-0202 or [denisegreen608@gmail.com](mailto:denisegreen608@gmail.com)

# Spring 23 CPE Units Underway

The Spring 2023 units of CPE offered through Ecumenical Institute are underway. Two units with ACPE Certified Educator Roger Cauthon are offered on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The units began in late September and will continue through mid-March 2023.

The Summer 2023 units will begin in late March and continue until mid-August 2023. There are already students beginning the registration for these summer units.

Each Spring unit has six students with the Wednesday unit being filled with Avera Health chaplains who are continuing chaplaincy training. These students are in clinical chaplaincy positions across South Dakota with Avera Health and supported in their education by Avera Health.

The Thursday group is also composed of six students with clinical placements including two in Tennessee, two in Iowa, one each in Pennsylvania and North Dakota. Of these students, one is

completing a fourth unit, one in a third unit, and one is a second unit.

The students reflect the ongoing chaplain educational and professional support that Ecumenical Institute offers to students in acute hospitals, local parishes, retirement facilities, hospice, recovery centers, and mortuary-cemetery sites. There is diversity in age, ethnic background, religious background, and gender.

ACPE Certified Educator Jennifer Hall is also leading a group for the fall 2022. This unit is underway and will be completed in December. There are four students in this group. The Reverend Hall continues to be a great support for Ecumenical Institute by leading groups and supporting the centers work in accreditation with the national ACPE office.

The support that Ecumenical Institute donors give allows this educational and developmental ministry to flourish. Ecumenical Institute is an ACPE center that offers distance education (video conferencing learning) and placement at a clinical site in a student's local area. The need for this offering is noted in the ongoing requests of students that makes Ecumenical Institute a vital part of pastoral care training in Iowa and in other parts of the country.

### El Student Testimonial.. Cont' from Page 1

are opportunities for us to present a snapshot of a pastoral care situation for the C.P.E. group to examine. The feedback, including affirmations and challenges for growth, have been instrumental in helping me to grow in offering effective, empathetic pastoral care. This feedback came not only from the director, but also from the other participants. I would recommend C.P.E. to anyone interested or currently working in a field related to pastoral care, whether it be in a hospital or church setting. You won't be disappointed.

**Training  
Faith Based  
Caregivers**



## Venmo Donation Option Now Available!

We now offer Venmo on the EI website for easy access when donating.

Check it out at [ecumenicalinstitute.org](http://ecumenicalinstitute.org)

**Choose friend or family option,  
not the business option.**



# Cherokee Ecumenical Institute Impact Reaches Africa

The impact and influence of Cherokee Ecumenical Institute continues to expand. Through local units offered historically at the Cherokee Mental Health Institute, EI has in past years expanded to include video-conferencing distance education which has brought students from across the Upper Midwest and other parts of the United States to EI through the internet connection. Now a story about even further impact.

The summer unit of 2022 had a student who was living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His ministry was to the community of Liberian immigrants to the US and involved beginning a parish and outreach ministry supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The student, Abraham Gayetaye, took his first unit of CPE. He shared his personal story of arriving in the US after being a pastor in Liberia, West Africa. Personal loss, medical crisis, and recovery through rehabilitation all highlight his story. Supported by the ELCA, he came CPE and the Ecumenical Institute group for the summer 2022 unit. During the unit, Abraham was developing a plan for assistance to local pastors near Monrovia, Liberia. Sharing this with ACPE Educator Roger Cauthon and his ELCA support group in Sioux Falls, plans were made for a pastor's conference when Abraham returned for a visit to Liberia. The following is the report on the conference in Abraham's words:

*The conference was good. It went as planned, (3 days straight, Monday - Wednesday was fulfilled). It was a real time success. The turnout was great. The response we received crosses our imagination. The secretariat recorded and reported each day attendance to an average amount of 96. This doubles my 50 participants projection. Throughout the three-day conference, the spirit, enthusiasm, and eagerness to learn from*

*the audience was high till sitting from 10 a.m. to 3 pm each day was just fun.*

*The seminar has two sessions each day (Monday - Wednesday). First session runs from 10:00 a.m. - noon. Lunch runs from noon to 1:00 p.m. Second session went from 1 - 3 p.m.*

## **Day One: Monday, Aug. 29, 2022**

*I started the conference with a power point presentation. To lay the foundation, I defined CPE and gave the historical narrative of it. An hour of Lunch took us to the Second session where the second presenter of the day (Roger) took an hour and half to define Pastoral Care in his presentation. Time did not allow Roger, the second presenter to go through his slides at this time. Katherine opted to continue with the rest of your slides on day two.*

## **Day Two: Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022**

*During the First session, my PowerPoint presentation focused on Active LISTENING skill. After Lunch, Katherine took the stage, incorporated Roger's reminding slides to hers to make her presentation which was superb.*

## **Day Three: Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022**

*On this last day of the conference, I presented on GRIEF during the First session. This was a super sensitive subject to say the least. From the definition I spoke on the Types and Impact of Grief. After Lunch, Katherine came into proxy for Heidi (our day three second presenter), (play her presentation on a recording, read her scripts, and lead*

*discussion to end the session).*

*The conference ended well. At the end, participants remarked with words of affirmation of the impact the conference made and requested the seminar become a continuing learning opportunity for pastors and church leaders in Liberia.*

For and on behalf of my wife, family, and local team, I want to say heartfelt appreciation to you Katherine, Heidi, and Roger for working with us to make this conference a success. Despite your personal, ministry and family schedules you still made yourself available to do ministry with people of different cultures and many with different religious backgrounds.

At the end of the conference, over twenty (20+) participants registered opting to do CPE if the opportunity is given. From all indications Roger, the stage is high, the quest to embark and or initiate CPE program in Liberia is and will continue to be overwhelming because of the just concluded conference. The three days seminar was intended to test the water and I can categorically say I am in conformity with those seeking CPE program in Liberia.

Through the support of Ecumenical Institute, you have made this conference a reality. Now working with the local church in Liberia and with the national ACPE office, we will explore how this process might emerge. Thank you for your support for the Ecumenical Institute.

**The Ecumenical Institute is a  
501c3 non-profit organization.**

If you have a charitable contribution fund account, you can contact your representative and request a donation to Ecumenical Institute.

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## Donating

None of this work is possible without the generous support of donors. Since the inception of the Pastoral Education Center in the late 1960's, the number of students participating has now grown well past a thousand. Imagine the countless lives these students have touched with the skills they've learned. With your assistance the number of students will continue to grow.

Please consider supporting the work of the Ecumenical Institute for Clinical Pastoral Education.

- New Gift for Ecumenical Institute
- Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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- Please send information about a stock transfer.
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Thanks to those who have helped plan for the longevity of Ecumenical Institute. These fine individuals have given; and their gift will continue after they are gone. If your name was inadvertently missed or you would like to be added, please contact Denise Green.

## Thank You

Special thanks to the Erlandson Foundation for their continued support.



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Ecumenical Institute is Accredited to Conduct Programs of Level I and Level II CPE by:  
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