

The Spiritual Caregiver

A Newsletter of the Ecumenical Institute for Pastoral Care



Ecclesiastes 3:11 "He has made everything beautiful in it's time." Summer reminds us that God's timing is perfect and every season has purpose.

Father Sitzmann Memorial Dedication



On Sunday, June 14th, 3:30 p.m. Maryhill Memorial Chapel we held a memorial dedication presenting El's plaque from the Ecumenical Institute. Father Dan Rupp blessed the plaque in front of fifty plus guests. A potluck supper followed the dedication.



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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**

A Northwest Iowa Secret...

Cherokee, Iowa is home to the Ecumenical Institute for clinical Pastoral Education. In 1992 Father Gene Sitzmann established Ecumenical Institute/EI an accredited 501(c) 3 non-profit, non-denomination organization. EI is an online training site. Ecumenical Institute has trained over 1,000 students. Our students, are pastors, priests, Imans, hospice workers, lay workers, prison chaplains, factory chaplains, Salvation Army workers, army chaplains, doctors and anyone wanting to improve their caregiving skills. Many denominations require their seminary students to take a clinical pastoral education (CPE) unit to become ordained. The caregiving skills students learn and experience through clinical pastoral education assist the students in their congregations, workplace, communities and personal lives.

EI has 4 Clinical Pastoral Educators. They are in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Massachusetts. Every clinical pastoral education unit has 6-7 students, The small group offers the students with diverse cultures and backgrounds, educational opportunities and experiences that they would not receive in a large group setting. Each Instructor can have more than one unit running at a time. EI is not affiliated with a

university or hospital. Our students have full-time jobs, and we can accommodate them with different training times such as weekends, nights, etc. The Ecumenical Institute offers a scholarship program for students whose training presents a hardship to attend a CPE unit.

We have had students from all over the United States and the World, different cultures, and different religions. Some of the countries are Isreal, Gaza, Sudan, Nigeria, Mongolia and Canada.

The following is a quote from a student, "Effective pastoral care requires more than theological knowledge, it demands clinical depth, disciplined reflection, and the supervised practice that clinical pastoral education (CPE) uniquely provides. Caregiving requires the capacity to be present with people in crisis such as illness, grief and stressful events, to listen without rushing toward answers, and to offer care that is both spiritually grounded and culturally attuned. CPE offers the structured, supervised clinical formation such as real encounters with patients and families, honest feedback from supervisors and peers, and discipline theological reflection on the students' pastoral identify, formation that happens in practice, not just the classroom."

Elements of a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

The unit consists of 120 hours in class (Zoom) and 280 hours of clinical time.

- Devotions - each student, along with supervisor, will share in a time of opening devotion.

- Verbatims - these are the core of each day's class time which are scheduled at the beginning of the unit.

- Learning Covenant - within the first four weeks, each student is asked to present his/her learning goals for the unit

- Critical Incidents - the student will present several critical incidents.

- Interpersonal relationship seminars - these seminars are an opportunity to stop and ask the question: "how are we doing as a group?"

- Weekly reflection or journal - a consist reflection by the student about what he/she is learning about themselves in the process or pastoral care.

- Care Study - advanced students may be asked to prepare an in-depth

case study.

- Sermon - during the unit, the student may substitute a sermon for a verbatim.

- Didactic - the supervisor or guest speaker will present a minimum of five didactics.

- Individual Supervision - each student will have one-on-one consultation with the supervisor.

EI FUTURE GOAL

Ecumenical Institute will apply to the national ACPE to establish a 501(c)3, non-profit, non-denominational Clinical Pastoral Educator program. There is a shortage of certified clinical pastoral educators and the increasing student requests for CPE units has presented the opportunity to expand our reach to provide more training for caregivers. We will continue to maintain our current 501(c) 3 Clinical Pastoral Education program.

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."
- Proverbs 3:5-6*

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

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



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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 \$ _____
- ☐ I pledge \$ _____ for _____ years.
- ☐ 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
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