**Clinical Pastoral Education, Unit 1**

**Accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education**

**400 hours as defined by program for**

**One full unit of ACPE CPE**

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**Course Description:**

Clinical Pastoral Education is interfaith professional education for ministry. It brings theological students and ministers of all faiths (pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, and others) into supervised encounter with persons in crisis. Out of an intense involvement with persons in need, and the feedback from peers and teachers, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons and of the needs of those to whom they minister. From theological reflection on specific human situations they gain a new understanding of ministry. Within the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal and interprofessional relationships. (from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education website).

About ACPE:

ACPE is the premier, DOE-recognized organization that provides the highest quality CPE programs for spiritual care professionals of any faith and in any setting. We do this through a rigorous accreditation and certification process for centers and educators that provide CPE. The depth of our training enables students to realize their full potential to strengthen the spiritual health of people in their care as well as themselves.

 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) began in 1925 as a form of theological education that takes place not exclusively in academic classrooms, but also in clinical settings where ministry is being practiced. ACPE certified CPE is offered in many kinds of settings: in hospitals and health care including university, children's, and veterans' facilities; in hospices; in psychiatric and community care facilities; in workplace settings; in geriatric and rehabilitation centers; and in congregational and parish-based settings. The textbooks for CPE include in-depth study of "the living human documents." By "living human documents," we mean both the people who receive care as well as a study of ourselves, the givers of care. Through the practice of ministry and the reflection thereon with supervisor and peers, the experiential learning that is CPE takes place.

Among the 2,300 members that make up the ACPE are almost 300 ACPE Accredited CPE Centers and about 600 ACPE certified faculty members (called ACPE Certified Educators). There are also Theological Schools Members and Faith Groups/Agencies who are partners with ACPE in seeking to provide excellence in theological education. Other groups of ACPE members are Spiritual Care Professionals, Students Affiliates, Individuals Members, Retired Certified Educators, Retired Members, and ACPE Networks.

Since ACPE formed in 1967 (as a merger of four CPE organizations), nearly 200,000 units of ACPE certified CPE have been offered to about 75,000 individuals from the United States and many other countries internationally. Approximately 9,000 units of ACPE certified CPE are completed annually. CPE students come from many different ethnic and cultural groups. Individuals from many faith traditions -- Protestant, Roman Catholic, Judaism, Islam, Orthodox Christian, Native American religions and Buddhism -- have taken ACPE certified CPE.

ACPE is nationally recognized as an accrediting agency in the field of clinical pastoral education by the U.S. Secretary of Education through the U.S. Department of Education. (from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education website)

The ACPE website contains additional information about CPE programs and pastoral care.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

See the current ACPE Standards Manual (online or available from the program) for the objectives and outcomes of Level 1 CPE.

**Relationship to the M.Div. Curriculum:**

The Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) is the professional degree for theological schools and seminaries. Its purpose is to prepare persons for ordained ministry and for general pastoral and religious leadership in congregations and other settings. The M.Div. is structured to give students the foundational tools for ministry, whatever that ministry might ultimately be. In particular, this course addressed the following degree outcome (degree purpose):

* Graduates will be proficient in contemporary theories and practices of leadership, worship, homiletics, pastoral care, and human development.

**Relationship to the M.A.C.M. Curriculum:**

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry is a 48-hour, professional credential designed to prepare women and men for competent leadership in specialized ministries in their faith communities. The degree seeks to develop the general theological understanding required as a basis for local church ministries and

nurture the practice abilities and skills needed in that setting. In particular, this course addresses the following degree outcome (degree purpose):

* Graduates will be proficient in ecclesial practices relating to their area of specialization, such as leadership, worship, homiletics, pastoral care, and/or human development.

**Prerequisites:**

1. Written ACPE application to a certified educator at an Accredited ACPE center.
2. Admission interview
3. Acceptance into the ACPE CPE program.
4. Before agreeing to participate in a program, you should know the schedule and  required learning activities.
5. McAfee will pay $250 of the program’s tuition. The student is responsible for paying  the rest. The student should check with the specific program for their cost and  policies regarding payment. No grade will be given until all fees have been paid.
6. For academic credit, the student will also register through the school’s normal process. If the unit extends over 2 semesters, register for academic credit the  semester you will complete the program.

**Textbooks:**

Your CPE Certified Educator will assign required reading.

**Participation:**

You will complete at least a total of 400 hours of educational and ministry activities, as defined by your particular program.

**Learning Activities:**

You will participate in the unit of Clinical Pastoral Education to which you have been accepted. The particular program will offer a variety of learning activities, about which your supervisor will give you specific details. These activities will generally include the following:

1. Assignment to a particular clinical area to function as chaplain/minister. “On-call” ministry is often required.

2. An individualized learning contract, which reflects your specific goals for the unit

3. Regular meetings with your ACPE certified educator.

4. Peer Groups for supervision, interpersonal learning and didactic education.

5. Written summaries of and reflections upon your ministry and growth.

6. A written final evaluation of your CPE unit. You will also receive a written final from your supervisor. It is your responsibility to keep your final evaluations for your future professional use. You will need them if you want to participate in additional CPE programs. They may also be needed for membership in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education or the Association of Professional Chaplains.

**Writing Assignments:**

For all writing assignments, students are to use the guidelines for structure, form and style that are offered by their ACPE program.

**Grading:**

CPE is a pass/fail course. You will pass the course by completing the ACPE unit, including writing your final evaluation. Your certified educator will notify me that you have completed the ACPE unit and I will give you a passing grade. Not completing the ACPE unit is grounds for failure.

In general, students will not have finished their CPE units when the semester ends and will therefore be given an incomplete. When I have received notification from your certified educator that you have completed the unit, I will assign a pass as the grade for the student.

**Policies & Procedures:**

See the current Mercer Atlanta Catalog and McAfee Student Handbook.

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