



**UNITYPOINT HEALTH-DES MOINES' FOUR HOSPITALS RECOGNIZED FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SPIRITUAL CARE**

Marks First Recipients in Iowa to Meet National Standards of Quality

NEW YORK, N.Y. (June 22, 2016)—HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) recently named UnityPoint Health-Des Moines' four hospitals as the first recipients in Iowa of the nonprofit organization's Excellence in Spiritual Care Award.

The award signifies that Blank Children's Hospital, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Iowa Methodist Medical Center, and Methodist West Hospital are committed to optimally addressing their patients' spiritual and religious needs, and that they have met HCCN's proprietary Standards of Excellence in Spiritual Care.

"We are proud and honored that our spiritual care services' team members are being recognized for the exceptional work they do. Our chaplains are an integral part of our care teams, providing support and care to our patients, families and staff with compassion and respect, ensuring the best outcome, for every patient, every time," said Joyce McDanel, vice president of human resources and education at UnityPoint Health.

UnityPoint's Department of Spiritual Care Services includes 13 chaplains who provide 24-hour spiritual care across UnityPoint Health-Des Moines. Its Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program has been in operation for more than 50 years, and each year trains 15 to 20 chaplains and other religious leaders through resident and internship programs.

In recognizing the newest awardees, HCCN's president and CEO, Rev. Eric J. Hall, said, "We applaud UnityPoint Health-Des Moines for adopting a philosophy about 'getting healthy and staying healthy' that includes spiritual care as a vital component of caring for the whole person. These state-of-the-art hospitals recognize the value of optimal spiritual health and continuously demonstrate that commitment to their patients and their families."

So far, in addition to the latest recipients, HCCN has granted this status to four hospitals and one hospice in New York, Oregon and South Carolina. Hundreds of other health care settings have expressed interest in being evaluated.

HCCN's Excellence in Spiritual Care Award is designed to further encourage and challenge health care facilities nationwide to prioritize spiritual health, at a time when a growing body of research suggests the positive impact of spiritual care on overall patient satisfaction and quality of life.

HCCN identified the 15 standards based on professional literature and its extensive 55-year history as a leader in spiritual-related clinical care, education and research. Institutions undergo a detailed review process to qualify for the award. Standards include employing an interdisciplinary approach to spiritual care; engaging in quality improvement projects; and the strategic deployment of chaplaincy care resources.

As part of the process, HCCN specialists identify areas in an institution's spiritual care program in need of improvement, provide consultation to achieve goals, and assist in more fully integrating chaplaincy services into its overall health care delivery.

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™ is a global health care nonprofit organization that offers spiritual-related information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals, other health care settings, and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care through clinical practice, research and education in order to improve patient experience and satisfaction and to help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning—whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more information, visit www.healthcarechaplancy.org, call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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