



Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee
 5561 Heatherwood Court, Unit 303, Halifax, NS B3K 5N7
 (A Ministry of the Halifax Region United Baptist Association—HRUBA)

*Please share this letter with your Pastor,
 Deacons and your congregation.*

October 10, 2024

Dear Partners in the Halifax Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry,



This has been an eventful year for our Hospital Chaplaincy ministry. Our Halifax Baptist Hospital Coordinating Chaplain, Rev. Joe Green, was appointed as the half-time NS Health Spiritual Care Coordinator to work with the hospital denominational and staff chaplains. Joe started his new position with NS Health on April 22, 2024, working primarily for them on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He continues to provide our Baptist Chaplaincy ministry to patients from our churches, their families, and to staff at the QEII Halifax Infirmary on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

With the reduction in Joe’s hours with us to half time, we are pleased that Rev. Adele Crowell, who retired from our Hospital Chaplaincy two years ago, has accepted a one-year, renewable contract to provide 15 hours per week of Chaplaincy ministry to patients, families, and staff at the Infirmary. Adele started on May 6, 2024. She will work on Tuesdays and Thursdays when

Joe is working on his Spiritual Care Coordinator duties.



We are blessed by the continuing ministry of the Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse, our part-time contract Chaplain who has been with us for the past eight years. Ida works an average of 12 hours per week, primarily at the QEII Victoria General site, the QEII NS Rehabilitation and Arthritis Centre and the IWK Health Centre.

What a great team to provide Baptist Chaplaincy ministry to the Halifax hospitals that serve the entire Atlantic region!

Joe's accepting the NS Health part-time position is particularly good news to all the hospital chaplains who had taken on extra responsibilities during the time that the NS Health Spiritual Care Coordinator position has been vacant. One important aspect of the Spiritual Care Coordinator position is the coordination and delivery of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) courses and supervision of the students as they do their practical work in the hospitals. This is done in cooperation with Acadia Divinity College and the Atlantic School of Theology for their students and for pastors who are wanting to move into chaplaincy. We are so pleased to see this important program put back onto a solid footing and to see the leadership role that Atlantic Baptists are taking!

Part of Joe's ongoing role with the HBHC is to network with our local Baptist churches, pastors, and lay people. Joe will continue to visit local churches and associations to either speak about the Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry or to preach a guest sermon. He is also offering short "visitation workshops" for local pastors and visitation teams covering topics such as infection control, confidentiality, and best practices.

Joe recently shared the following story with the Chaplaincy Committee, and we share it with you as an example of what might be encountered during a chaplain's visit.

"You're a chaplain?"

"Yes, I'm the Baptist chaplain."

"Good well I am Baptist. I'd like to talk to you about the end."

"Has that been something you've been thinking about?"

"Yes, it is."

A family member quickly cut in, "Mom you've never said anything to me about that!"

This is just one of the many ways that our Baptist Chaplains interact with patients and their families around the topic of death and dying. Unfortunately, this is not the exception but is often the rule. Many people are reluctant to have these kinds of conversations with their loved ones, and many families are also reluctant. Right up there with sex, politics and religion, dying is becoming one of those taboo topics. Joe says that he is often curious as to how we got here. He wonders what brings on the reluctance. Whether it is funeral planning or personal directives for health decisions, this reluctance often gets put hastily at the end of life—or in harder circumstances doesn't get addressed at all and is left to a grieving family or family member.

Our Chaplains seek to be a resource and support not only in hospital, where end of life often occurs, but they want to help foster conversation long before people enter the hospital. These kinds of conversations can also be a proactive way that churches and congregations can respond to end-of-life issues or at the very least be ready for those conversations. The Chaplains feel that death is an important part of life. But unlike the nine months of preparation to come into this world, we rarely spend similar effort or energy in preparing to exit.

If you belong to a local church or an association that would welcome a workshop to start these kinds of courageous conversations, please consider us a support and partner in equipping the church to walk with those who are ill or dying and the families that surround them. Please contact Joe directly (joe.green@nshealth.ca) if you would like to attend one of the workshops, or to set up a future workshop or to suggest a topic for a workshop.

Our chaplains are an extension of the ministries of local churches and associations and are always happy to have someone call them to say that a patient is coming to one of the Halifax

hospitals. Contact information for the Chaplains and a brochure that can be given to those anticipating a hospitalization can be found on the Hospital Chaplaincy page of the Halifax Region United Baptist Association (HRUBA) Website, <https://www.hruba.ca/ministries/hospital-chaplaincy>. Conversely, it is always helpful for Chaplains to know if a pastor is coming in to visit someone as they will spread out their visitation to support the local pastor's.

On the financial side, we are gratified by the ongoing support for the Hospital Chaplaincy. In May we revised our budget to reflect the change in duties for Joe (reduced to half time) and to increase the amount of part-time contract Chaplaincy ministry (see copy on p4). This year, the HRUBA was able to continue its \$20,000 support, the Atlantic Baptist Foundation increased its grant to \$15,000 and the Christie Fund (Amherst Baptist Church) provided a \$5,000 grant. This support comes at a particularly important time, since we had deficits in 2022 and 2023, significantly reducing our reserve funds, which are so important to tide us over the summer months when donations are lowest.

Even with this good news, there is still a challenge ahead. We realize how difficult it is in these times for many churches to maintain the same level or to increase their financial support. However, without your support, we will not be able to provide the same level of Chaplaincy Ministry to our Baptist patients and families at a time when the demand is increasing, with a growing population and many patients coming from away for specialist services. We will need to increase our budget in the years ahead. Fortunately, with the CBAC office providing bookkeeping and payroll services for us and a volunteer committee supporting the Chaplains, we have been able to keep our overhead down to 2% of the budget, giving a very good flow through to the ministry itself.

Over the past two years we have been excited to see a growing number of personal donations. We are also excited by the establishment of our new Hospital Chaplaincy Endowment Fund at the end of 2022. With the closing of Birchy Head United Baptist Church and the sale of its building, the congregation combined with the St. Margarets Bay Baptist Church. We were honored that the congregation decided to share some of the proceeds of the sale with a donation of \$10,000 to the Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Endowment Fund. Earnings from this donation and others made in 2022 and 2023 will result in more than \$1,100 that will be transferred to the Operating Budget account to support this year's chaplaincy ministry. For more information about the Endowment Fund, please email hospitalchaplaincy@hrubua.ca.

We look forward to working together in support of this compassionate ministry. May God bless our Hospital Chaplaincy and may God bless you in your local ministries.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Barkhouse, Chair

Members: Rev. Dr. Marlene Knowles, David Gibson, Rev. Wayne Desmond, Rev. Steve Baker, and Licentiate Sharon White (on furlough)

Chaplains: Rev. Joe Green, Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse and Rev. Adele Crowell

HALIFAX BAPTIST HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY Budget 2024

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures (with historical comparisons)

(Revised Budget Approved by HBHC Committee May 16, 2024)

	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Year ended December 31	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Revenue					(COVID-19 Reduced)	(COVID-19 Reduced)
Donations from Churches						
PEI	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,100	\$ 2,000
New Brunswick	1,000		1,250	750	750	1,500
Halifax Region	15,000	12,760	9,420 **	15,146	13,302	17,729
Rest of Nova Scotia	26,000	24,521	22,791	25,791	24,239	24,777
Donations from Churches Subtotal	43,250	38,531	34,711	42,937	39,391	46,006
Grants and Special Donations						
HRUBA Budget	20,000 *	20,000	17,500	17,500	17,550	17,500
Other Associations	3,000	2,650				
Atlantic Baptist Foundation	15,000 *	12,500	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Christie Fund	5,000 *					2,000
Earnings from Endowment Fund	1,100	760				
Personal and Memorial Donations	7,000	8,308	1,812	1,056		
Chaplain Retirement Donations			5,800			
Grants and Special Donations Subtotal	51,100	44,218	35,112	28,556	27,550	29,500
Total revenue	94,350	82,749	69,823 **	71,493	66,941	75,506
Expenditures						
Supervisory Chaplain: Salary and Benefits	49,322 ***	70,972	63,102	58,395	43,955	56,405
Chaplain Retirement			5,000			
Contract Chaplains: Fee-for-Service	40,000	17,531	16,698	13,138	12,780	15,495
Chaplains Subtotal	89,322	88,503	84,800	71,533	56,735	71,900
Memb. Fees and Professional Liability Insurance	1,650	1,037	532			
Professional Development	500					
Supplies, Advertising, and Travel	1,900	1,508	1,464	469	820	1,069
Total expenditures	93,372	91,048	86,796	72,002	57,555	72,969
Excess of revenue over expenditures	978	-8,299	-16,973	-509	9,386	2,537
CBAC Accounting reconciliation		-1	-1		-1	-37
Cash balance, beginning of year	30,597	38,897	55,871	56,380	46,995	44,495
Cash balance, end of year	\$ 31,575	\$ 30,597	\$ 38,897 **	\$ 55,871	\$ 56,380	\$ 46,995
* Received or Confirmed						
** Corrected by \$-3,104 to reverse a deposit incorrectly made to the this account						
*** Supervising Chaplain changed from full time to half time on April 22, 2024						