



## Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee (HBHCC)

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.*

May 27, 2024

Supporting Pastors and Congregations  
of the Halifax Region United Baptist Association,

### **Exciting News from the Halifax Hospital Chaplaincy Committee**

Dear Partners in Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry,

We are excited! And we want to share our excitement with you!



Our Halifax Baptist Hospital Coordinating Chaplain, Rev. Joe Green, has been appointed as the half time NS Health Spiritual Care Coordinator to work with the hospital denominational and staff chaplains. NS Health has been trying to recruit to this position for the past two years without success. In a recent re-advertisement for the position, Joe was encouraged to apply, and was offered the position.

Joe consulted extensively with the Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee to identify our support for him accepting the position. We unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed this move, agreeing to reduce his hours with us to half time, so he could occupy both positions. Fortunately, both positions are located at the Queen Eliabeth II Halifax Infirmary. Joe started his new position with NS Health on April 22, 2024, working primarily for them on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He continues to provide Baptist Chaplaincy ministry to patients from our churches, their families, and to staff at the QEII Halifax Infirmary on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

This is exciting 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 to ensure that chaplaincy was not overlooked as other organizational changes were made. 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 Acadia Divinity College and the Atlantic School of Theology for their students and for pastors who are wanting to move into chaplaincy.

With the support of the HBHCC, over the past year, Joe has taken a lead role in delivering the CPE. Without his participation and the support of the HBHCC, these courses would likely not have been possible, so all of us Baptist supporters of the Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry have been able to share in providing this opportunity to future Chaplains. It is exciting to see this important program put back onto a solid footing!

At our recent Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee meeting, we received a very encouraging report on Joe's work with our patients, with the current CPE course and with early coordination work related to his new position with NS Health. We are excited for Joe and to see Hospital Chaplaincy continuing to be recognized within the NS Health system.

Part of Joe's ongoing role with the HBHCC 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. Please contact Joe directly ([joe.green@nshealth.ca](mailto:joe.green@nshealth.ca)) if you would like him to visit your church, would like to attend one of the workshops, or to suggest a topic for a future workshop. It is exciting to see pastors and lay persons interested in hospital visitation!

With the reduction in Joe's hours with us to half time, we were concerned about maintaining the high level of ministry to patients at the QEII Halifax Infirmary. We are pleased to tell you that Rev. Adele Crowell, who retired as our full time Hospital Chaplain 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. She started on May 6, 2024 and will work on Tuesdays and Thursdays when Joe is working on his Spiritual Care Coordinator duties. Adele joining the team ensures the continued Chaplaincy coverage at the Infirmary. We are excited to have Adele back!



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. Her compassionate ministry brings peace and solace to many. 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. We are excited to provide Chaplaincy ministry to these locations!

Our chaplains 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 is on the Hospital

Chaplaincy page of the 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 excited by the ongoing support for the Hospital Chaplaincy. 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 a \$16,973 deficit in 2022 and a \$8,299 deficit in 2023, which significantly reduced our reserve funds, that are so important to tide us over the summer months when donations are lowest.

Over the past two years we have been excited to see a growing number of personal donations. Some are in memory of a loved one, some are from patients who have been ministered to by the chaplains, and some are from individuals who wish to support the ongoing chaplaincy.

Even with this good news, there is still a challenge ahead. To the end of April, we have received, \$32,619, including all the donations mentioned above, toward our 2024 Operating Budget of \$94,350. We are concerned because 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 run out of funds 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 though of donations to the ministry itself.

We are also excited by the establishment of our new Hospital Chaplaincy Endowment Fund. Created at the end of 2022, we have already received donations. Some are memorials, and some are by donors who wish to ensure the future of the chaplaincy for years to come. A particularly exiting donation came in March of this year. 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. It was decided to share some of the proceeds of the sale with HRUBA ministries, and a donation of \$10,000 was made to the Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Endowment Fund. Earnings from this fund of more than \$1,100 this year 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](mailto: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