



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 Treasurer, Finance Committee, Deacons and your Congregation.

October 13, 2023

HRUBA Local Churches
HRUBA Pastors

A Thanksgiving Letter from the Halifax Hospital Chaplaincy Committee

Dear Partners in Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry,

It is Thanksgiving season, and our committee has much to share with you for which *we are thankful!*

We have three new members of our committee: Rev. Wayne Desmond who pastors in the African United Baptist Association (AUBA), Pastor Steve Baker from Queens County NS, and Licentiate Sharon White from Cumberland County NS. *We are thankful!*

The last three years have been full of change and challenge—both for the Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry and for the local churches and associations that give us their support. During the upset of COVID-19, our chaplains were considered “*essential workers*” in our hospitals and were welcomed even when local pastors were not. *We are thankful!*

Our new full-time Chaplain, the Rev. Joe Green, completed his first year with us, working primarily at the QEII Halifax Infirmary and Victoria General sites. *We are thankful!*

On April 18, 2023 we received notice from the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care that Joe had been awarded the designation CASC/ACSS Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner. We celebrate with Joe and *we are thankful!*



About once each month Joe has been visiting local churches and associations to either speak about the Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry or to preach a guest sermon. This year, Joe is also offering short “visitation workshops” for local pastors covering topics such as infection control, confidentiality and best practices that a number of pastors have found very useful. Please contact Joe directly (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. For Joe’s leadership and the interest of local pastors *we are thankful!*

The Hospital Chaplaincy Committee has also endorsed Joe's request to participate in the training of the next generation of Chaplains through delivery of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) courses and supervision of the students as they do their practical work in the hospitals. This will help to educate theology students from Acadia Divinity College and from the Atlantic School of Theology. The students will assist Joe in visiting our Baptist patients and families. For

Joe's mentorship and for the interested students *we are thankful!*



We are also blessed by the continuing ministry of the Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse, our part-time Chaplain, who works an average of 12 hours per week primarily at the QEII Victoria General site, the IWK Health Centre and the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation and Arthritis Centre. Ida's compassionate ministry brings peace and solace to many. For Ida's ministry *we are thankful!*

With the increasing number of patients desiring chaplaincy visits and the limited availability of local pastors from distant locations, Joe and Ida are in heavy demand. For the ministry they provide on our behalf, *we are thankful!*

Our Chaplains have a particular message to local churches. Church is key to care: As you can imagine, a number of our patients are elderly and are often widowed and living alone. One of the central themes the chaplains attempt to address is loneliness and belonging. Recently, our chaplains were supporting a patient where these themes became apparent. They hadn't been to church in over 50 years, but read their bible and were eager to learn more. The patient really craved relationship and connection. As they were able to say these things out loud and felt heard about them, they engaged our chaplains on how to connect to a local church. Our chaplains were able to print off some information from a couple of churches in the patient's neighbourhood. At the patient's request, our chaplains connected them with a local pastor. This was important to the patient as it helped to meet their needs and brought some reassurance that their loneliness may be addressed once they were discharged. For this compassion we can show through its ministry and its links to local churches *we are thankful!*

Two things are apparent to our Chaplains in this kind of moment. First, that while in hospital, when a patient is supported well they heal better. Second, those who are supported in community and have a faith connection have lower levels of distress on the whole. Churches and our partnership with them is a key to the overall level of care we can offer patients and to walk well with them as neighbours. For this role in helping the patient heal *we are thankful!*

Our Chaplains have two important items to relay to your congregation. First, upon admission, front line staff should ask the patient about their religious affiliation. When they do, if the patient identifies as "Baptist" then the patient will appear on the Chaplain's daily lists and can be supported during their time in hospital. The other important thing our Chaplains do is try to assess the layers of support that patients have. If it is clear that they are connected to a church then the Chaplain will often ask if they would like them to contact their pastor. This can help church leaders to know how to support a congregant either in hospital or when they get home.

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. For hospital visits by local pastors and support from local churches *we are thankful!*

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>. For patient referrals from the local churches *we are thankful!*

Even though faced with financial challenges themselves during COVID-19 shutdowns, in 2020 and 2021, our churches and other donors were able to continue to support the Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry, and we balanced our budget. For each donor *we are thankful!*

Unfortunately, in 2022, we had a significant shortfall in our fundraising, leaving us with a deficit of \$16,973 which significantly reduced our reserve funds. For the accumulated reserve from previous years that was able to offset this shortfall *we are thankful!*

This year, we have had to increase our budget to offset increased costs. We have received increases in support from the budget of the Halifax Region United Baptist Association and in the amount of the grant from the Atlantic Baptist Foundation which will help to offset the increase in the budget. For their ongoing support, *we are thankful!*

However, as we approach the end of 2023, we still face a significant financial challenge, as an increase in donations is needed to avoid another year-end deficit. This year, we are particularly 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. For every partner in this ministry *we are thankful!*

By the end of September, we had received \$49,865 towards our 2023 budget of \$91,108. With \$5,625 in grants to still be received, this gives us the challenge of receiving donations from local churches, associations and individuals of \$35,618 by December 31st. We know that historically many local churches make their annual donation toward the end of the year. As you consider your support at this time, we ask for your prayerful consideration of how you might help us overcome this challenge. Only through your ongoing support can we maintain the present level of our shared Chaplaincy Ministry to our Baptist patients and families. For each local church, association and individual partner that is able to help us *we are thankful!*

May God bless our Hospital Chaplaincy and may He bless you in your local ministries.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Barkhouse, Chair

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

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

HALIFAX BAPTIST HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY Budget 2023

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures (Approved at HBHCC Meeting of February 16, 2023) (with Summaries of 2023 and 2022 Donors)

	Budget 2023	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020	Budget 2020	Actual 2019
Year ended December 31								
					(COVID-19 Reduced)		(COVID-19 Reduced)	
Revenue								
Donations from Churches and Associations								
PEI	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,100	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
New Brunswick	1,500	1,250	750	750	1,500	750	1,500	1,500
Halifax Region U. B. Association Churches	15,000	9,420	17,000	15,146	17,500	13,302	17,500	17,729
Rest of Nova Scotia	26,000	22,791	26,000	25,791	25,000	24,239	25,000	24,777
Donations from Churches Subtotal	44,000	34,711	45,000	42,937	46,000	39,391	46,000	46,006
Grants and Special Donations								
HRUBA Budget	20,000	17,500	17,500	17,500	17,500	17,550	17,500	17,500
Atlantic Baptist Foundation	12,500	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Christie Fund	5,000 *							2,000
Earnings from Endowment Fund	400	0	200					
Personal and Memorial Donations	7,000	1,812	1,000	1,056				
Chaplain Retirement Donations		5,800	6,250					
Grants and Special Donations Subtotal	44,900	35,112	34,950	28,556	27,500	27,550	27,500	29,500
Reduced Revenue due to COVID-19					-7,000		-19,125	
Total revenue	88,900	69,823	79,950	71,493	66,500	66,941	54,375	75,506
Expenditures								
Full-time Chaplain: Salary and Benefits	70,783	63,102	63,709	58,395	56,969	43,955	40,671	56,405
Chaplain Retirement		5,000	6,250					
Part-time Chaplain: Salary and Benefits	17,325	16,698	16,500	13,138	16,500	12,780	16,080	15,495
Chaplains Subtotal	88,108	84,800	86,459	71,533	73,469	56,735	56,751	71,900
Membership Fees	1,000	532						
Supplies, Advertising, and Travel	2,000	1,464	2,000	469	1,000	820	1,000	1,069
Total expenditures	91,108	86,796	88,459	72,002	74,469	57,555	57,751	72,969
Excess of revenue over expenditures	-2,208	-16,973	-8,509	-509	-7,969	9,386	-3,376	2,537
CBAC Accounting reconciliation		-1		-1		-1		-37
Cash balance, beginning of year	38,897	55,871	55,871	56,380	56,380	46,995	46,995	44,495
Cash balance, end of year	\$ 36,689	\$ 38,897	\$ 47,362	\$ 55,871	\$ 48,411	\$ 56,380	\$ 43,619	\$ 46,995

* Request made but funding not yet confirmed