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The jointly authored statement "[The Impact of Professional Spiritual Care](#)" is an important resource for individual chaplains, chaplaincy training and education organizations, and organizations that employ chaplains. Spanning the expertise of the largest healthcare chaplaincy organizations in North America, the statement speaks to four areas: Demystifying Spiritual Care; Professional Chaplains' Qualifications and Competencies; Professional Chaplains' Standards of Practice; and Evidence for Spiritual Care. The statement is available in two formats: a flipbook that is tablet- and mobile-friendly, and a PDF.

The first section places spiritual care in the context of well-being, citing the World Health Organization's Four Dimensions of Well-Being. Along with helpful examples of spiritual struggle and spiritual distress, the section also addresses the expertise of professional chaplaincy care in contrast to local faith leaders. The statement is written in an accessible manner so that a non-chaplain healthcare leader can understand the language and rationale of professional chaplaincy, and it succinctly provides talking points for professional chaplains who are speaking to management. The remaining sections are in a reader-friendly bulleted format and provide helpful examples about chaplain competencies, standards of practice, and an overview of spiritual care research.

To me, professional spiritual care means caring for patients, caregivers and loved ones, and my "congregation," those who work daily in the healthcare setting alongside me.¹ Professional spiritual care means being familiar with my healthcare institution's mission and values and finding ways to address those in my professional practice. Professional spiritual care means maintaining strong, collaborative, interprofessional relationships; staying up-to-date on continuing education; and following standards of practice. Professional spiritual care also involves contributing to healthcare transformation by addressing the Quadruple Aim in healthcare: not only the Triple Aim of patient experience, population health, and reducing costs, but also the recent addition of care team well-being. Professional chaplains can have a tangible role in addressing especially the fourth aim, and that role is highly valued by healthcare systems concerned about compassion fatigue, burnout, and staff turnover.²

As a component of professional chaplaincy and a recent addition to both core competencies and continuing education requirements, research literacy also is important to the professionalization of chaplains. Without expecting that every chaplain *conduct* research, literacy suggests that every chaplain *read* research. Doing so brings professional chaplains out of the micro-level work of direct patient care and into the macro-level realm of theory and population-level, evidence-based care. For example, instead of asking questions about how to help one patient with congestive heart failure (CHF), research literacy directs a professional chaplain to ask about the varieties of spiritual care interventions for patients with CHF. Both questions are important, yet they equip chaplains with useful tools in different ways. The challenge and goal of professional chaplaincy at this moment is to hold onto both and to do so with intentionality, tenacity, and compassion.

¹ Rev. Janet Hanson, personal communication.

² Rev. William Delong, 2017 APC Symposium presentation.