

Margaret Ellison

Hospice Chaplain

Hospice chaplain with 4 years in home and inpatient hospice and a firm commitment to the hospice philosophy of care. Delivers hospice spiritual care and spiritual counseling to patients of every faith and none, and networks with community clergy and congregations so families keep their own faith support to the end.

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EXPERIENCE

Hospice Chaplain

08/2022 - Present

Sonoran Hills Hospice

Tucson, AZ

Chaplain for a home and facility hospice serving about 140 patients across Pima County.

- Manage a caseload of 38 home and nursing facility patients, visiting each at least twice a month.
- Complete spiritual assessments within 5 days of admission and update care plans at the weekly interdisciplinary team meeting.
- Lead about 25 funeral services a year at the request of families, many held at graveside or at home.
- Build referral ties with 20 local churches, a synagogue and a mosque, connecting patients to their own clergy.
- Handle crisis management and bereavement support at deaths, often as the first team member on site after hours.

Chaplain Resident

08/2021 - 07/2022

Saguaro University Medical Center

Tucson, AZ

ACPE residency at a 500-bed academic medical center.

- Completed 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education in a 12-month residency on oncology and palliative units.
- Provided spiritual counseling to an average of 22 patients per shift, including many facing end-of-life choices.
- Wrote clinical documentation for each visit in the electronic record before the end of every shift.
- Joined the palliative care team in 60+ family meetings on goals of care and comfort measures.

Associate Pastor

06/2019 - 07/2021

Desert Grace Lutheran Church

Tucson, AZ

Second pastor at a congregation of 300 members.

- Taught biblical interpretation classes to about 30 adults every Wednesday evening.
- Visited 20 homebound and hospitalized members each month and brought communion to each of them.
- Started a 10-week grief support group that ran each spring for families after a loss.



SKILLS

Hospice Spiritual Care

Spiritual Counseling

Spiritual Assessments

Crisis Management

Bereavement Support

Funeral Services

Biblical Interpretation

Clinical Documentation

Clinical Pastoral
Education

Communication



EDUCATION

Master of Divinity

05/2019

Iliff School of Theology

Denver, CO

Divinity



CERTIFICATES

Board Certified Chaplain (BCC)

05/2025

Association of
Professional Chaplains

Clinical Pastoral Education, 4 Units

07/2022

ACPE