Chaplain Phil Pockras

Annual Report to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA

February 15, 2024

**Overview**

In addition to serving as pastor at the Belle Center, OH, RPC, I serve as a volunteer chaplain as part of the chaplain staff at the Mary Rutan Hospital, a regional hospital in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

**Duties**

As part of the volunteer hospital chaplain staff, I provide religious and other support for all the hospital, not merely patients and families. This has been my primary responsibility. As the longest serving ordained chaplain on staff, I have recruited one other chaplain, and have been seeking to encourage the other chaplains to seek further education in their chaplain work.

**Ministry Update**

This last year I have been seeking to study medical and bioethics. Our hospital has an ethics committee; it seems to me to be likely that one or more of us chaplains will be asked at times to advise or become part of this committee. Since last year’s Stated Meeting I have become endorsed by the Presbyterian and Reformed Chaplain Commission, and I am seeking ways to be able to take units of Clinical Pastoral Education in order, eventually, to become board certified as a hospital chaplain.

**Challenges**

The only challenges, currently, are certain limitations on my visitation with patients. I am only allowed to visit patients when asked for. Another challenge is being able to minister to medical, nursing, and other staff, who often need to be reminded that I am a hospital chaplain, not merely a patient chaplain.

**Prayer Requests**

Please pray the loss of our little grandson last June would lead to more compassionate care from me, especially to those who have recently lost loved ones. As well, please pray that I might be able to make progress toward board certification.

Phil Pockras

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