

INTRODUCTION and WELCOME

The Pastoral Care Allied Health Group welcomes you as a member! We are happy to provide you with a copy of this Membership Handbook and hope that you will find it helpful. It is our desire that this handbook will enhance communication among our members.

Our partnership with the NLHBA has been an excellent opportunity to share resources in the development and delivery of pastoral/spiritual care for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The title, **Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association**, represents a shift in health care infrastructure in this province from a hospital focus (**Newfoundland Hospital Association**) to a hospital and nursing home focus (**Newfoundland Hospital and Nursing Home Association**) to a more inclusive system, which includes hospitals, clinics, long term care facilities, community-based programs, and public health promotion.

The Pastoral Care Allied Health Group (PCAHG) is an association of those who minister to the religious and spiritual needs of persons in the health care system as well as those who provide Pastoral/Spiritual Care services in community, prisons, airports and rehabilitation centers throughout the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. We also welcome as members others who are interested in our work of pastoral/spiritual care.

The Pastoral Care Allied Health Group publishes a newsletter, **THE CONNECTING**, three times a year. There is a monthly Teleconference ordinarily held at 1300H (1230H in Labrador) on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of each month, September – June and at no cost to the user. Educational sessions are provided at some of the teleconferences; these are open to all persons interested in the specific topic. A teleconference meeting of the Executive is held on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month at 1300H (1230H Labrador). This is a dial-in system where an access code number is required; the telephone number and code are usually included with the agenda. We encourage members to join colleagues at a health care centre in their region. In the event that you do not have the access number and wish to join in the teleconference, please contact a member of the Executive at www.nlhba.nl.ca/Web_Site_Files/PC/PC.htm

Pastoral Care Week, usually in late October, is an annual event that highlights the work of pastoral/spiritual care. The Annual General Meeting and Conference of the PCAHG group is held in the Fall and provides opportunities for members to come together and share their experiences as well as to receive input from other professionals in the field.

We look forward to your participation in the activities of our Pastoral Care Allied Health Group. We are confident that during these times of change, pastoral/spiritual care will continue to be a light so that all might see more clearly the important role we play as part of the team of health care providers throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

Once again, **WELCOME!** Please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Committee with your concerns or your ideas. We look forward to hearing from you!

Pastoral Care Allied Health Group Executive