**HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY NETWORK HOSTS CPE PROGRAM
AT MERCY HEALTH – YOUNGSTOWN**

Hospital and Students benefit from online education

New York, N.Y. (August 16, 2017) – HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) has partnered with Mercy Health – Youngstown in Ohio in advancing their Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program by providing a CPE Certified Educator, as well as introducing HCCN's CPE online program to the organization. Mercy Health is the largest health system in Ohio.

HCCN's CPE program is a convenient and accessible path to further spiritual care education. It offers a standardized, cutting-edge approach to help future and current chaplains. The program includes online self-guided courses, authored by top experts; video conferencing for didactics, group process time, student presentations, one-on-one supervision by an ACPE Certified Educator – more commonly known as the CPE Supervisor.

"We developed HCCN's distance-based CPE program as a way to educate individuals in multi-faith spiritual care who do not live near CPE centers," explained Rev. Eric J. Hall, HCCN's president and CEO. "We are pleased that Mercy Health – Youngstown is able to benefit from our CPE program and that we can continue reaching those who want to further their spiritual care education."

Mercy Health – Youngstown has provided CPE since 2010. When their CPE Educator retired, Chaplain Sandra Lucas, the Regional Director of Spiritual Care, searched for the most convenient and cost-effective way to continue the program.

"There were no CPE programs in this area except ours," explained Chaplain Lucas. "After exploring options at several hospitals, it was suggested I look into HealthCare Chaplaincy Network. I liked what I saw, particularly that their program is fully accredited through ACPE."

HCCN developed an innovative approach to CPE in early 2016 and has since had over 125 students completing units through CPE.org. Deborah Damore, Director of Clinical Services for HCCN and ordained minister, has been serving as the CPE Certified Educator for the Youngstown units through CPE.org since February 2017.

Distinctive from traditional teaching methods, HCCN's online CPE course offers students the ability to gain much of the training from clinical hours at a local institution, while engaging in the educational hours from the comfort of a home or office. This specific course is unique from

standard enrollment through CPE.org in that all students are able to complete their clinical hours at Mercy Health – Youngstown. They also meet as a group for the online CPE class. The first unit, which began in Spring 2017, was a success encouraging the hospital to contract with HCCN for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 units.

"At first, it was a big adjustment even though the only difference – a big difference – was that the [CPE] Educator was online," said Chaplain Lucas. "However, we learned that not only does it work, it works well. Healthcare facilities without the resources to hire an ACPE supervisor could offer CPE online."

HCCN's CPE program is provided by HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™, a global leader in spiritual care education, clinical care, and research. HealthCare Chaplaincy Network is accredited to offer Level 1/Level II CPE by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE), One West Court Square, Suite 325, Decatur, GA 30030, 404 320 1472, www.acpe.edu. **Learn more at www.CPE.org**

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network
HealthCare Chaplaincy Network is a global healthcare nonprofit organization that offers spiritual care information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals other health care settings and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in healthcare through clinical practice, research and education in order to increase patient satisfaction and help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning – whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more information, visit www.healthcarechaplaincy.org, call 212-644-1111 and connect with us on Twitter and Facebook.

About Mercy Health Youngstown
Mercy Health - Youngstown is an integrated health system in the Mahoning Valley, which encompasses the Youngstown/Warren metropolitan area – Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties in Ohio. It is part of Mercy Health, which is headquartered in Cincinnati and is the largest health system in Ohio and one of the largest Catholic health systems in the United States. Mercy Health - Youngstown provides a full spectrum of healthcare services – acute inpatient and trauma, outpatient and ambulatory, rehabilitation, behavioral, emergency and urgent care, primary care physicians in patient-centered medical homes, specialist physician care, home health, home medical equipment, long-term care and hospice care, as well as Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley. Learn more at www.mercy.com/Youngstown.

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