

You've heard a lot about COHI (pronounced Co Hi) over the past year. We had an amazing team of people go through the rigorous training (42 hours of instruction, over the course of 28 weeks), and now it's time for the next step.

This month, on May 15th, we will commission the COHI chaplains during the 10am service.

The men and women who will come forward are prepared to offer care in all sorts of settings, understanding unique aspects of specific topics from loss of a loved one to aging, to even simply any change in life—big or small.

Soon after the commissioning, our COHI chaplains will begin serving the St. Philip's congregation.

This is a rare and wonderful opportunity for St. Philip's, as our chaplains will be able to expand and extend the pastoral care already offered here, providing more contact with those seeking support.

In case you were wondering, according to the COHI training manual, "The primary pastoral [care] goal is to disclose God's love, protection, guidance, strength for, and presence with the one who is in crisis or suffering."

As a result, receiving pastoral care is really about just being reminded that God loves you—even in the pain and sorrow and anger and hurt that comes with life's changes.

Another branch of pastoral care at St. Philip's is our Lay Eucharistic Visitors. We recently had a training, where 8 Eucharistic Visitors were prepared to begin visits again.

I am very excited for them to begin the process of visiting our fellow parishioners who cannot come to church very easily or readily. I think this will be the beginning of another wonderful chance at developing caring relationships within the parish.

The Pastoral Care Ministry Board's mission statement is: to love and comfort our neighbors as ourselves.

COHI Chaplains and Lay Eucharistic Visitors offer two more ways we can love and comfort our neighbors as ourselves.

I hope you feel the same way, too—and see all of our Pastoral Care ministries as a reminder of God's presence in the world.