

## **Report to The Table Charge Conference**

**November 23, 2024**

**Rev. Mallory Naake, Deacon in Full Connection**

**Appointment: Mercy San Juan Medical Center, Carmichael**

**Position: Staff Chaplain**

I continue to live into my ministry and calling as a hospital Chaplain. In October, I celebrated 6 years at my current ministry setting, Mercy San Juan Medical Center. I am a visible chaplain in the hospital who interdisciplinary staff trust to be an example of our mission and values. Staff regularly tell me they are grateful when I come into a difficult or tense situation because they know I will be a calm presence; not only for our patients and families, but for them as well. Staff trust that I will support patients without judgment, regardless of their religious, cultural, language, economic, gender, sexuality, health needs, or any other background. I meet people where they are as a human being, a child of God, often in pain or suffering. I discern and use my pastoral authority to advocate for patients and families when necessary.

Our Spiritual Care department and hospital system (CommonSpirit Health) have seen multiple changes and upheavals this year. Most directly related to my ministry is that two chaplains left for personal reasons, and we then hired two new chaplains to replace them plus an extra PRN Chaplain. Our VP of Mission Integration, and a mentor to me, Sr. Sheila retired in July. And most recently our Spiritual Care Director's position was eliminated; leaving much uncertainty in our structure and support. I have reflected during this time on my values around Spiritual Care, the Chaplain role, and being part of a large healthcare system. I remain somewhat unsettled as I am currently on leave (see below), and am not sure what I will return to next spring.

I feel I am a leader in our Spiritual Care department of 7 chaplains, and went above and beyond in the following ways:

- Took the lead on organizing the annual Hospital Memorial Service and Memorial Table in November for All Souls' Day.
- We have had 3 new chaplains start this year, and another Chaplain and I took the lead on helping to orient them.
- Co-organizer, facilitator, and chaplain representative on the Schwartz Committee (national program in hospitals to help staff receive support and process the emotions of this difficult work). My work included organizing the monthly rounds and preparing our "storytellers" to share their experiences. I also participated in continuing education on how to facilitate Schwartz Rounds, including both asynchronous and an intermediate day-long training for Schwartz facilitation. I facilitated the Schwartz Rounds four times this year, and helped co-facilitate/support the facilitator on other Schwartz Rounds.
- Chaplain representative on the Ethics Committee. I also participated in the two day Ethics training through CommonSpirit last fall.
- Took the lead on communication with other departments for interdisciplinary patient/family needs. Including, with Social Services for End of Life resources, Sierra Donor Services, and Decedent Affairs for unrepresented patients. I also provided education for our chaplains across the region in this last area.

- In general I provide organization and leadership amongst the chaplains with my experience and organizational skills.

Outside of my appointment, I continue to serve and live out my faith in the following ways:

- For over a year I have been a DCOM candidacy mentor for Dahye Jung, who is discerning both hospital chaplaincy and call to ordained Deacon.
- I am on the Professional Advisor Group for the UC Davis Medical Center CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) program which trains chaplains. I mentor one resident and/or intern at a time, help with interviews of potential CPE students, and annually review the CPE program's compliance with APCE (Association of Clinical Pastoral Education - the national body for chaplaincy training standards).
- I am newly elected to the California-Nevada Annual Conference BOOM, and have been appointed to the Residents Practicing Ministry (Cal-Nev's support and accountability for commissioned Deacons and Elders).
- I remain a member of Cal-Nev's CUIR (Committee on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Relations).
- Participation in my Kitchen Table at The Table UMC continues to be a grounding and growing space for my personal and communal faith journey. I am very grateful to my KT sisters and brothers, and for the structure Matt and Linda have provided for which fosters our deepening faith.
- I continue in regular Spiritual Direction, which has also helped ground me in my personal faith and in ministering with others.

In my personal life, I am about to have a huge life change. I am due with my first child at the end of November! I am very excited to meet him and move into my calling to motherhood. As I mentioned before, I have started my family leave and plan to return to the hospital March 2025.