



## 120th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah Report for Episcopal Community Services

### Mission

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) is a pioneer in training and placing multi-faith chaplains to provide compassionate spiritual care that heals and empowers the people we serve, and strengthens the systems that serve them. Through empathy and professionalism, ECS forms leaders who bring spiritual care and presence into the most vulnerable moments of life.



ECS of Utah is advancing the broad-spectrum benefits of professional spiritual care in Utah and nationally. We've been an education leader, and one of the largest employers of board-certified chaplains in Utah for more than 40 years - in hospitals, senior living facilities - and also supporting after-school youth programs.

This report highlights the exceptional growth and profound impact from the past year. Dedicated to fostering spiritual well-being, education, and compassionate care, ECS has significantly expanded its reach, programming, and partnerships, solidifying its role as a vital resource of the Episcopal Church and in the wider community.

### Key Areas of Growth and Achievement

**Training the Trainers:** ECS is investing in the future of chaplaincy by training Certified Educators who will shape the next generation of spiritual care providers. Supported by a recent ACPE grant, ECS expanded its educator training program to include candidates and students from across the nation. Currently, three Certified Educator Candidates and one Certified Educator Student are being mentored through the program.

**Expanding the Reach of Senior Living Chaplaincy:** In partnership with Episcopal Housing Services of Utah (EHSU), ECS is expanding senior living chaplaincy to all five EHSU low income senior housing communities. Recognizing the increasing need of spiritual care for seniors, ECS is

approaching other community organizations and funding sources to support the EHSU-ECS partnership and to create a reproducible program.

**Expanding Spiritual Care for First Responders:** This initiative seeks to provide essential emotional and spiritual support to individuals who regularly face high-stress and often traumatic situations, recognizing their unique needs and the critical role they play in public safety.

## Increased Community Engagement and Outreach

**Community Interfaith Collaborations:** ECS forged new partnerships with other faith-based organizations to host joint events and dialogues, fostering mutual respect and shared spiritual exploration.

**Promoting Initiatives Through ECS News:** We are continuing to develop and distribute targeted human interest stories that focus on the real-world impact of our services on patients, healthcare providers, and the wider community. By showcasing the human element of our work, we aim to forge deeper connections with hospital leaders and staff, and to foster a sense of shared purpose by demonstrating how ECS contributions directly benefit their core mission.

<https://www.ecsutah.org/news>

## Resource Development

The field of chaplaincy is changing at a rapid pace. Good news is that more healthcare providers are seeing the value of spiritual care, however, more qualitative and quantitative sources are needed. In response, ECS and St. Mark's Hospital are working in partnership to co-create a research initiative designed to measure the impact of practical implementation strategies of spiritual care on the health and wellbeing of patients and service providers entering and working in the hospital system.

## Conclusion

The past year has been a period of extraordinary growth and achievement for ECS. Through innovative programming, increased community engagement, dedicated staff, and robust resource development strategies, ECS expanded its footprint and deepened its impact on the lives of countless individuals. As we look to the future, ECS remains committed to widening the reach and the transformative power of chaplaincy within our community and beyond. We are confident that with continued support, ECS will continue its trajectory of growth, reaching even more hearts and minds in the years to come.