

Interfaith Chaplaincy Program Catalog 2021 - 2022

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Table of Contents

CORE CURRICULUM	
THE FIVE THREADS OF INTERFAITH CHAPLAINCY STUDIES	5
INTERFAITH WISDOM	
SPIRITUAL PSYCHOLOGY	
SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT	
INTERFAITH MINISTRY & SERVICE	
CORE COMPETENCIES FOR MINISTERIAL FORMATION	
PROGRAM STRUCTURE	
LIVE REMOTE INSTRUCTION	
RESIDENTIAL LEARNING RETREATS	
COURSE TIMING & FREQUENCY	7
COHORT PARTICIPATION	
INDEPENDENT STUDY	
REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY	9
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	
ORDINATION	
WHAT IS ORDINATION?	
BENEFITS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORDINATION	
ORDINATION REQUIREMENTS	
CERTIFICATES & TITLES BESTOWED	
CLERGY IN GOOD STANDING STATUS	
PROGRAM FEES	
FINANCIAL AID	
SCHOLARSHIPS	
WORK STUDY POSITIONS	14
ACCREDITATION	
PROGRAM LEADERSHIP	
SEMINARY DEAN	
THE INTERFAITH CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM FACULTY	
CHI GUEST FACULTY	
More About Us	

Student Testimonials

ChI's curriculum is unique, in that students who are interested in Interfaith ordination not only read, reflect, and engage with literature and liturgy from a wide scope of faith traditions, it also insists upon first-hand experience. This Nice Jewish Girl found herself genuflecting in embodied Muslim prayer, meditating with a Buddhist nun, kneeling in a Catholic mass, and sweating in a lodge with a Lakota guide. The insistence upon empathy and the invitation to compassionate sharing offered a clerical formation unlike anything I could have imagined.

-**Rev. Jen Bernstein** ChI Interfaith Minister Ordained 2014



Dear Prospective Student,

Thank for your interest in The Chaplaincy Institute.

The Interfaith Chaplaincy Certificate Program is designed to inspire, nurture and educate a new kind of leader: those who are called to guide and serve in an interfaith capacity. Many individuals enroll in this course after finding themselves at a crossroads – they come to ChI (our nickname for The Chaplaincy Institute) to satisfy a long-felt hunger to live more meaningful, engaged lives. Others arrive feeling called to a specific area of ministerial leadership or spiritual service. Whether in traditional or emerging contexts, this program equips its graduates to engage with the individuals and communities of our complex and changing world.

Our innovative program focuses on a combination of the study of the world's religions, an exploration of mystical paths and teachings, as well as developing skills for ministry and providing spiritual care. Weaving together multiple learning styles, art and field visits in the local community, students immerse themselves in a deeply creative and nurturing environment to inquire, explore and grow who they are.

Integral to spiritual formation and vocational preparation, ChI students are encouraged to retain and deepen their personal theological perspectives, while also expanding their capacity to serve the spiritually and culturally dynamic world in which we live.

Seminary – tending one's own spiritual and ministerial formation - is an amazing process. Personal transformation is inevitable; and with growth and expansion can come periods of discomfort and unrest, as well newfound elation and healing. ChI intends to be a safe and brave container for interfaith seminarians to question, wrestle with, and arrive at new points of understanding and integration. Our goal is to offer a complete and well-rounded experience that prepares our graduates to lead and serve in whatever capacities they are called.

Those completing the Interfaith Chaplaincy Certificate program are academically eligible to be ordination candidates with The ChI Interfaith Community. While many ChI Seminary graduates pursue the path to interfaith ordination, it must be noted that ordination and/or full board certification as a professional chaplain, are separate processes with additional requirements and/or credentialing. As a ChI seminarian, interfaith ordination and/or professional board certification should not be presumed or considered foregone conclusions.

I am excited to see you in our circle one day, should it be your right path!

Many blessings,

Rev. Katrina Leathers, M.A., Seminary Dean

Core Curriculum

The ChI curriculum provides students with a comprehensive, integrated, interfaith, and appliedtheology education. Self-care practices are incorporated throughout, as fundamental learning for all individuals called to caring professions.

Our curriculum has its roots in, and speaks to, the universal language of the psyche and soul of all human beings. Designed to address the evolving spiritual needs reflected in our communities and larger society, each course syllabus undergoes annual review, adapting and changing for relevance and usefulness.

Five Threads comprise the curriculum and establish the Core Competencies for Ministerial Formation. They inform the classroom learning objectives, homework assignments and independent study requirements, and prepare and then measure each seminarian's readiness for graduation.

The Five Threads of Interfaith Chaplaincy Studies Interfaith Wisdom

Engage with the world's knowledge, beliefs, traditions and practice.

- World Religions & Perspectives: Understanding world traditions, exploring culture and practices, cultivating mystical awareness
- Contextual Education & Immersion: Personally engaging spiritual and cultural traditions, inter-religious dialogue and hospitality
- Theological Literacy: Understanding faith and the Interfaith movement, engaging sacred texts, exploring personal and Interfaith theology

Spiritual Psychology

Deepen understanding of self and psyche

- Psycho-spiritual development
- Strengthening the container of self for health in ministry
- Dreamwork

Spiritual Leadership & Development

Define, express and embody one's personal connection to Spirit

- Personal Transformation & Self-care: Deepening spiritual practice, personal inquiry and reflection
- Leadership & Communication Skills: Developing inspired teaching, speaking and facilitation skills
- Arts for Awakening: Engaging transformative artistic practices in visual arts, music, and movement as pathways to the Divine

Interfaith Ministry & Service

Explore spiritual care practices for individuals and communities

- Spiritual Care: Developing practical, inclusive spiritual care and ministry skills, prayer, spiritual care theology, and personal competence in deep listening, presence and compassion
- Public Speaking & Ceremonial Ministry: Understanding ceremonial rites & elements of Interfaith worship
- Prophetic Voice & Social Transformation: understanding the power of moral authority, and how it can be utilized to serve, advocate for and ally with those deemed outside the dominant culture.

Vocational Formation

Design and practice your unique path to service or ministry

- Supervised Practicum: Integration and application of core competencies
- Calling & Discernment: Exploring how your gifts, growing edges, vocational experiences and inner guidance interweave to form your way of ministering to the world

Core Competencies for Ministerial Formation

If a student is called to pursue the path to ordination, there are Core Competencies for Ministry that have been identified by The ChI Interfaith Community that guide the process. These guidelines provide direction for each minister's ongoing personal and professional development and fall into the following categories:

- Formative Theology
- Missional Theology
- Critical Theology
- Spiritual Psychology
- Personal Transformation & Self Care
- Communication Skills & Public Presentation

- Leadership & Ministerial Demeanor
- Arts for Awakening
- Spiritual Care
- Public Speaking & Ceremonial Ministry
- Prophetic Voice & Social Transformation
- Vocational Formation

Program Structure

Our program features *hybrid distance learning* with intensive courses currently held virtually in order to serve students from near and far, and two residential learning retreats during the course of each student's program. Our goal is to join the best features of Zoom classroom teaching with independent learning on Moodle plus in-person retreats for experiential learning and practice. The Chaplaincy Program includes substantial at-home learning through independent study in your own time. Ordination and endorsement may require one additional visit to Berkeley for ordination

retreat and ceremony.

Live Remote instruction

Students attend intensive courses on Moodle and Zoom that focus on one particular aspect of interfaith ministry within our curriculum threads and Core Competencies. During each course, a team of core and guest faculty guides students in an integral learning experience, incorporating theological, academic, creative and experiential elements. Class content may include didactic and experiential, theological and psychological, artistic and reflective modalities. Depending on the focus topic of a course, each offers different opportunities to explore, consider, discuss, or practice but all contain elements of ministry, chaplaincy and spiritual care skill-building.

Residential Learning Retreats

Twice in the course of their program, each student will attend an intensive *in person* retreat in a retreat center in California. Retreats are four days long and held in the spring and late fall. In these retreats, students engage in full days of experiential and interactive learning, spiritual practices and small group meetings. The retreats will be attended toward the beginning and midle of each student's coursework, depending on the details of attendance plans.

Course Timing & Frequency

In order to graduate, all students must complete the ten (10) required courses plus 3.5 or 4 credit hours of electives. The required courses have a flexible sequence that is mandatory, but still allows the flexibility in timing of attendance. Sometimes a student has attended an Open Course before enrolling in the Chaplaincy Program in which case they should take the Four Foundational courses before subsequent courses. All requirements must be completed to be considered for ordination. *Required reading, reflection papers, prepared presentations and expressive arts projects as well as focus-topic classes on Moodle are done in the* **two months before the Zoom course dates**. All work *must be done prior to the course days on Zoom*.

Students have up to three years to complete the coursework. While it may seem technically possible to complete the program in one year, a more realistic timeframe is 18 months at minimum. A two-year process or more allows for greater continuity and a deeper engagement with both the material and with The ChI Community and thus is recommended.

Cohort Participation

Students meet with a small group of peers, 5 - 7 students who began the program in the same timeframe, led by an advisor or faculty member. These cohorts are required and meet twice a month throughout the student's time in the program.

Independent study

In addition to in-person retreats and online courses, students work independently on requirements that include:

Work with a Spiritual Director

Each student is required to complete once-monthly Spiritual Direction sessions with an approved director, to commence after the student's first class, and completing a minimum of 1 session per month for every month prior to graduation (or ordination), unless otherwise agreed upon between the student and ChI. [Note: Minimally this means 15 sessions, typically closer to 22.]

Commitment to a personal spiritual practice and participation in a spiritual community

The options for a personal spiritual practice are multiple and flexible. Examples include attendance at a weekly worship service, daily meditation, prayer based on a primary faith tradition, yoga, art or journaling, and so on. *Practice should be discussed and tended in spiritual direction as well as in the Core Competencies Self-Assessment review.*

Students are also expected to participate in the life and activities of their primary spiritual community. The community may be your long-standing religious home but may as easily be a 12-Step group, church, temple, zendo, mosque, ashram or other community with which you share spiritual values or practices.

Visit spiritual centers

Each Chaplaincy Program student is expected to visit and experience worship or practice at a variety of spiritual centers of diverse faiths or traditions in their local community. The intent of this contextual learning requirement is to have the student engage with different faith traditions/expressions of spirituality beyond just observation (and, especially, to avoid "spiritual tourism.") Site visit are meant to include both personal immersion in the traditions and contextual/cultural examination.

Take on a secondary tradition

The student will pick a secondary tradition, beyond their personal spiritual home, to delve into more deeply and find a mentor to give guidance in that tradition. This secondary tradition should be explored formally for at least 6 months through regular study and practice.

Complete the Core Competencies Assessment *

Students are required to complete a written self-reflection assessment and assessment interview, which are to be completed near the end of their program.

Complete a practicum *

Contextual learning gives each student the opportunity to integrate theological concepts and intellectual constructs into the flow of lived experience. Students are required to complete a 200-hour-supervised practicum (400 hours for those wishing to be ordained) in an area of interest relating to their desired focus of ministry or spiritual care.

This is where each student can test their wings and begin to grow their ministry within the supportive structure of our learning community. Choices for the practicum are very broad and decided by the student with support from ChI advisors.

*Students pursuing ordination will have additional requirements for these elements, further detailed in the <u>Ordination Requirements</u> section of this catalog.



Requirements Summary

Interfaith Chaplaincy (IC) Certificate Program requirements for Certificate and Ordination includes:

	Certificate	Certificate + Ordination
In-person instruction:		
10 Required Courses & Assignments	\checkmark	\checkmark
3.5 - 4 Credit Hours of Electives	\checkmark	\checkmark
Independent study:		
Spiritual Direction Sessions	\checkmark	\checkmark
Personal Spiritual Practice & Community	\checkmark	\checkmark
Site Visits	\checkmark	\checkmark
Secondary Tradition	\checkmark	\checkmark
Core Competencies Assessment	\checkmark	\checkmark

Practicum	200 hours	400 hours
Ordination Preparation:		
Ordination Consultation		\checkmark
Vocational Assessment		\checkmark
Ordination Cohort		\checkmark
Ordination Retreat		\checkmark
Ordination Ceremony		\checkmark

Ordination

"Through the stairway of existence we have come to God's Door." —Hafiz



What is Ordination?

Ordination is a process in which a religious community designates specific individuals as clergy with the intent that they will minister to the spiritual needs of others in the name of and on behalf of the community. Individuals usually first have an internal sense of a calling to ministry, which is then validated externally by a religious community through the ordination process. The ChI Interfaith Community views ordination as a once in a lifetime event.

The pathway to ordination is both sacred and deliberative. Religious bodies, including The ChI Interfaith Community, ensure that candidates for ordination are carefully prepared and examined before ordaining them as clergy. The ChI Interfaith Community includes clergy, representing many faith traditions, who believe the model of interfaith spiritual life is essential for our world today. Ordination is bestowed on behalf of The ChI Interfaith Community through the lineage of these previously ordained clergy.

The ChI Interfaith Community ordains individuals who demonstrate a:

- Sense of vocation or calling to ordained interfaith ministry
- Commitment to their own ongoing spiritual and psychological development
- Firm grasp of the beliefs and practices of the world's major religions
- Readiness for ministry, which includes the embodiment of Core Competencies of Ministry identified by The ChI Interfaith Community

Benefits & Responsibilities of Ordination

Ordained Interfaith ministers have the same legal standing as ministers of any faith tradition. They may perform rituals and ceremonies as professional clergy, including marriages, blessings and celebrations, and memorials, as well as providing pastoral care. By remaining Clergy in Good Standing with their ordaining religious body, they also fulfill a key requirement to be board certified chaplains.

Chl's ordained interfaith ministers also have responsibilities. Chl's clergy are bound to the covenant of the vows that they take at the time of ordination and are also expected to adhere to <u>The Common</u> <u>Code of Ethics for Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, Pastoral Educators and Students</u>. Ordained ministers represent Chl's Interfaith Community and are responsible to ChI as an institution, to fellow ordained clergy, and to those served as one continues to adhere to these standards, principles, and ideals.

Ordained interfaith ministers have the support and backing of ChI's Interfaith Community, which is committed to clergy's ongoing growth and development. Fellow clergy, individually and collectively, are a source of spiritual encouragement, camaraderie, ministerial resources and countless years of wisdom gained through personal and professional experience.

Ordination Requirements

In addition to completion of all academic requirements, the Interfaith Chaplaincy Certificate Program provides instruction to assist seminary students in their vocational formation for ministry, through a separate but parallel process that takes place for those called to interfaith ordination. This process is designed to help ordination candidates discern their call to spiritual leadership and ministry and is conducted by The ChI Interfaith Community.

Additional requirements for ordination candidates include:

Additional Practicum hours

Ordination candidates are required to complete 400 hours of practicum, or the equivalent of 1 unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). *This requirement is instead of the 200 hours required for Certificate students.*

Vocational Assessment

A requirement of most seminaries, this collaborative process provides valuable insight into one's vocational calling, psychological health, and readiness for interfaith ministry or chaplaincy. It provides an opportunity for seminary students to engage in a self-reflective process that can help them identify their learning edges and evolve as human beings and as ministers-in-training while still in the supportive setting of the ChI Seminary and ChI Interfaith Community.

Core Competencies' Assessment

Through this process the student will assess their own mastery of the Core Competencies for Ministry through a written process of deep reflection. A committee composed of ChI's Community Minister, a Core Faculty member and a member of ChI's Ordained Clergy will meet with the student to discuss the Core Competencies Self-Assessment paper submitted. Afterward, this same committee will assess the student's readiness for ordination and either approve for ordination or provide additional steps to complete to prepare for ordination.

Ordination Cohort

The purpose of the ordination cohort is to give and receive support on the path to ordination. Students join a cohort that will meet together in the months before an ordination ceremony in order to clarify each candidate's sense of calling to ordained ministry, discuss aspects of the ordination process, and plan together aspects of the ceremony.

Ordination Retreat

The retreat takes place during the week of ordination, at the same time the usual monthly module is being held. All ordinands are expected to participate in the full retreat. The spiritual purpose is to enter into a sacred space where ordinands prepare themselves internally for ordination as they reflect on what it means for them to be an Interfaith Minister. The practical aspect of the retreat is that it includes time to practice and receive feedback on ordination vows and sermons, and to rehearse the ceremony and logistical aspects.

Certificates & Titles Bestowed

All graduates of the Interfaith Chaplaincy Certificate Program receive a **Certificate of Completion** from The Chaplaincy Institute. All students who successfully complete the Certificate Program also receive an **official transcript** from The Chaplaincy Institute, which lists the student's program start date and graduation date and assigns a passing grade for all academic requirements. **The ChI Seminary** bestows Certificates of Completion and issues transcripts.

The ChI Interfaith Community bestows Interfaith Ordination and Clergy In Good Standing status. All clergy ordained by The ChI Interfaith Community are entitled to adopt and use the following titles:

- Reverend
- Chaplain
- Interfaith Minister

Clergy in Good Standing Status

Clergy in Good Standing status means that you are demonstrating to the satisfaction of your religious community (ChI) an ongoing commitment to your personal wellbeing/self-care, your spiritual and



psychological development, your professional growth, ethical conduct and the sustainability of your religious community (ChI).

ChI seminarians who successfully complete The ChI Interfaith Community's process for ordination are considered Clergy in Good Standing, which is required for board certification as a professional chaplain and may be required by employers. Clergy in Good Standing must renew annually.

Application Process

PREREQUISITE

A Bachelor's degree is required, in most cases. We recognize that many people have engaged in life and learning experiences in a variety of contexts that can develop knowledge and abilities that equal a Bachelor's degree. Applicants without a Bachelor's degree can apply for an education equivalency/life experience waiver of this requirement, by completing a *Bachelor's Degree Prerequisite Waiver Request*, available from our office.

APPLY ANYTIME!

A written application, transcript, professional resume or CV and three letters of recommendation are required.

There is no deadline to apply for this program. The same cycle of courses is repeated each calendar year, so students can apply and attend in a schedule pattern that is best suited to their own situation.

WHEN TO APPLY

Plan to have application materials in no later than 3 months prior to the date of the first session you plan to attend.

Application materials can be requested from and returned to: admissions@chaplaincyinstitute.org

APPLICATION INTERVIEWS

We review applications in the order we receive them, within 2 weeks. Once reviewed, we will contact you to schedule a 60 minute interview in Zoom with Dean Rev. Katrina Leathers.

ACCEPTANCE

If accepted into the program, students will receive an acceptance letter and all that is necessary to get started. Plan on one to two months' time to prepare for the first module (administrative forms, student handbook, orientation, course readings and other homework assignments).

Program Fees

For a description of Fees, visit the website at: <u>https://chaplaincyinstitute.org/interfaith-chaplaincy-program-fees/</u>

Financial Aid

Scholarships

We are committed to making our interfaith education programs accessible to all qualified applicants, as we are able to. In this spirit, ChI offers partial scholarships to eligible applicants as funds are available.



Work Study Positions

The Chaplaincy Institute (ChI) is committed to making our courses accessible to all qualified applicants. In this spirit, ChI offers a limited number of work study positions to provide partial assistance with program fees to students who are enrolled in the Interfaith Spiritual Direction Certificate Program.

The most important factors that are considered when determining work study awards are a student's financial need, matching of specific skill sets to organizational needs, and student's ability and commitment to keeping a regular work schedule that we can count on and manage to. Work Study awards are applied to Program Fees only and should not be requested to offset expenses associated with other program costs.

Accreditation

Seminaries are accredited through The Association of Theological Seminaries (ATS) and/or the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The Chaplaincy Institute is not an accredited academic institution and does not offer a Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, so ChI would not show up in the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC)'s list of accredited schools but does appear as a recognized ordaining body.

More Information

ChI – Admissions at admissions@chaplaincyinstitute.org or 510-843-1422.

Program Leadership

Seminary Dean



Rev. Katrina Leathers, M.A., was ordained by ChI in 2012, and completed the Interfaith Spiritual Direction Certificate Program in 2013. Before joining the ChI staff in 2015, she worked as a psychotherapist, youth chaplain and spiritual director. Her graduate degree was in Expressive Therapies from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA so she brings to ChI the integration of creativity, psychology and spirituality. Her spiritual home is Core Shamanism,

and she trained with Michael Harner at the Foundation for Shamanic Studies. Her particular passion is ministry and spiritual direction for those who identify as spiritual independents or spiritual-but-not-religious.

The Interfaith Chaplaincy Program Faculty

ChI faculty help to expand students' working language of interfaith studies and expresses the vision of interfaith dialogue and inquiry of ChI. They hold degrees from a number of seminaries and progressive learning institutions, including Naropa University, seminaries within the Graduate Theological Union, Fuller Theological Seminary, the California Institute of Integral Studies and Holy Names University.

Public Speaking & Ceremonial Ministry



Pastor Jacqueline K. Duhart is a 2008 graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry. She served as the Interim Developmental Minister at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland in Oakland, California. She retired from full time ministry in June, 2019. She identifies as African descent, lesbian and her preferred pronoun is she and they. She is a mother, civil rights activist, avid hiker and gardener and she shares being human with her life partner Cynthia. Her favorite spiritual practices are dance/sacred movement, prayer and sitting/walking meditation.



Prophetic Voice & Social Transformation

Rev. Theresa "Rivka" Gevurtz is an interfaith minister, chaplain and spiritual director, ordained through The Chaplaincy Institute in 2018 and earning her MDiv. at Starr King School for the Ministry in 2019, as well as graduating the ChI Spiritual Direction program at that time. Rivka's area of focus, culminating her

master's degree, was addressing the ways religious wounding impacts not only the queer and BIPOC communities, but the society at large. Her ministry is influenced by the social justice commitment of her Jewish Renewal tradition, faith-based advocacy for the LGBTQ community & the environment, as well as by contemplative and mystical traditions and Reiki energy healing. She has been a public speaker on LGBTQ and environmental issues, spearheading community action initiatives as well as advocating to legislative bodies.

World Religions and Theological Literacy



Rev. Dr. John R. Mabry has been teaching spiritual guidance for ten years. A United Church of Christ (UCC) pastor, John pastors Grace North Church (Congregational) in Berkeley, CA and teaches spiritual guidance, pastoral ministry, world religions, and comparative theology at various Bay Area schools including Santa Clara University and the Chaplaincy Institute. He is the author of several books on spirituality and interfaith ministry, including *Growing Into God: A Beginner's Guide to Christian*

Mysticism; Noticing the Divine: An Introduction to Interfaith Spiritual Guidance; and Faith Styles: Ways People Believe, among many others.

Spiritual Care and Theology



Rev. Jürgen Schwing, M.A., BCC, is the Director of Spiritual Care at Kaiser Permanente's Diablo Service Area, which serves two hospitals and a hospice. The Walnut Creek Medical Center offers an ACPE-accredited Clinical Pastoral Education program, as a satellite of Stanford Hospital and Clinic's CPE program. Rev. Schwing is an ordained UCC minister and a board certified chaplain whose work is rooted in the interfaith mystical journey and depth psychology. He has an M.A. in Religion and the

Personality Sciences and received his clinical training as a spiritual counselor at Stanford Medical

Center and the California Pacific Medical Center. Kaiser Permanente has featured his work in interfaith spiritual care in clinical video conferences throughout its system nationwide. Jürgen has taught at the Graduate Theological Union and has given presentations internationally, including in Germany and at the World Congress on Psychology and Spirituality in India, as well as at conferences of the Association of Professional Chaplains and the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology. (Disclaimer: Rev. Schwing's teachings at ChI, as well as his writings on the ChI website, are his own and not endorsed by Kaiser Permanente).

Spiritual Psychology



Rev. Megan Wagner, Ph.D. is a therapist, spiritual director, artist, Kabbalah teacher, interfaith minister, drummer, ritual leader and author. She is the author of The Sapphire Staff: Walking the Western Mystical Way, a guide to the 7 stages of psycho-spiritual awakening from Kabbalah and the Tree of Life. Rev. Wagner is founding director of Tree of Life Teachings International, where she runs Tree of Life Training, a Kabbalah School, and leads sacred journeys to Crete, Europe,

Mexico and Africa. Her healing work integrates Psychology, Mysticism, Shamanism, Astrology, Alchemy and the sacred arts of drumming, chanting, storytelling and ritual. She trained in Family Systems and Jungian Psychology and has 25 years of counseling experience, including 12 years of supervision in psychodynamic counseling and personal analysis in analytic depth psychology. An Interfaith minister, Rev. Wagner earned a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, and Masters in Metaphysics and Ph.D. in Transpersonal Counseling from the University of Sedona.

ChI Guest Faculty members include experts in specific faith traditions, spiritual practices, or other areas of spiritual leadership. Students learn from experts in specialized areas such as hospice care, addiction and recovery, prison ministry, and more, as well as from religious leaders dedicated to building



bridges of peace and understanding. To learn more, visit our <u>Guest Faculty</u> page on the website.

More About Us

For more information about The Chaplaincy Institute Seminary and Community, visit <u>https://chaplaincyinstitute.org/ChI-roots/</u> To schedule a conversation with us, contact <u>admissions@chaplaincyinstitute.org</u>

General Contact Information:

Email: <u>Chloffice@chaplaincyinstitute.org</u> Phone: 510-843-1422 Website: <u>Chaplaincyinstitute.org</u>

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATION AND ADA POLICY

The Chaplaincy Institute is committed to helping students realize their academic potential and eliminate physical, programmatic and attitudes that serve as barriers for students with disabilities. The American Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disabilities in employment, education, public accommodations, transportation, state and government services, and