

Spirituality Groups Within Acute Care Psychiatry Settings

In-patient psychiatry units hold unique challenges when clinicians consider how best to create space and provide care for the spiritual and religious needs of patients.

Dedicated Mental Health Chaplains have found a variety of creative ways to claim this space, and one valuable tool is the use of Spirituality Groups.

This presentation will consider existing literature and research on Spirituality Groups within acute care psychiatric settings. It will also describe several groups currently run within Covenant Health facilities, and will initiate dialogue around possible research opportunities.

Presenters:

Jessica Baker has a Master of Divinity in counselling from Tyndale Seminary, and a B.A. in psychology from the University of Waterloo. She is a certified Specialist with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC), and a Pre-Clinical Fellow with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. She is also endorsed as a Brethren pastor. Jessica works as a Chaplain at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital where she covers inpatient and outpatient psychiatry.

Lyn Beddoes completed her Master of Divinity at Taylor Seminary in Edmonton. She is an Associate member with CASC, and an ordained Minister with the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada. Lyn works as a Chaplain at Villa Caritas providing care in seniors mental health.

Jane Christensen has a Master of Divinity from Taylor Seminary, and a B.A. in psychology from the University of Alberta. She is an Associate member with CASC, and is endorsed by the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada. Jane has worked as a Chaplain at Villa Caritas specializing in inpatient psychiatry. (in absentia)

Wendell Gelderman received his undergraduate degree at The King's University, and a Master of Theological Studies from St Stephens College. He is an Associate member with CASC, and a certified Spiritual Director. For the past ten years Wendell has worked as a Chaplain at the Misericordia Community Hospital with a focus in mental health.