

**Specialized Pastoral Care Questionnaire:
Findings**

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REPORT CONTENTS	
Executive Summary	Page 1
Questionnaire Development Process	Page 2
Questionnaire Findings	Page 3
Comment Analysis	Page 11
Observations from Donald Stiger, Director for Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Education, Division for Ministry	Page 17
Appendix	Page 19

Executive Summary of Findings

Setting & Roles

- A quarter of respondents serve in a hospital, 21 percent serve in a long-term care setting. Fifteen percent are retired.
- Over half of respondents serve as chaplains, but only 10 percent serve as CPE supervisors.

Denominational Affiliation

- About 35 percent serve in an ELCA affiliated organization. About 80 percent indicated that some type of church body affiliation was required or preferred for their position.

Connection to the Church

- Respondents feel more connected to their congregation and synod than to their cluster/conference and the churchwide organization.

Value of SPC Gatherings

- Respondents prefer, and are more likely to attend, smaller gatherings (such as with a synod bishop or staff) or gatherings on a local or community level rather than churchwide gatherings.

Priorities for the Director for Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Education

- Sixty-three percent of the respondents indicated that interpreting and advocating for SPC persons should be a high priority. Nearly one half said that coordinating the endorsement process should also be a high priority.

- About three-quarters of the respondents said that serving as a resource person for SPC gatherings and developing fund-raising resources should be medium or low priorities for the director.

Ecclesiastical SPC Endorsement

- Nearly 70 percent of respondents are endorsed, and 23 percent are not endorsed.
- Forty-four percent believe the endorsement process works well while 11 percent believe the process doesn't work well or not well at all.
- Of those who are not endorsed, 37 percent serve in a long-term care setting. Thirty-four percent of those who are endorsed serve in a hospital.

Questionnaire Development Process and Return Rate

Development of the Specialized Pastoral Care (SPC) questionnaire began in the fall of 1998 as a partnership between the Division for Ministry (Donald Stiger, Director of the Department for Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Education) and the Department for Research and Evaluation (Kenneth Inskip, Director, and Kathy Sime, Research Analyst).¹ After we developed a draft, the SPC Regional Representatives reviewed it and suggested revisions. This small group then assisted in fielding drafts of the questionnaire as a pre-test.

In mid-January of 1999, we mailed questionnaires to the full population of 1046 ELCA persons in Specialized Pastoral Care ministries. This first mailing also included a "Personal Data Sheet" that listed personal information found in the SPC database and asked respondents to correct any incorrect information (such as addresses, ordination date, rostered synod). These responses on the data sheet have now been updated in the SPC database.

We mailed reminder postcards in February to non-respondents. Replacement questionnaires were mailed to non-respondents in mid-March. As of April 30, we received 790 questionnaires, or a 76 percent response rate. An analysis of selected comments from the questionnaire follows the graphics section of this report. For the distribution of responses, see the attached "Frequencies" following this report (appendix 1).

¹ The Division for Ministry and the Department for Research and Evaluation expresses gratitude to **Lutheran Brotherhood** for graciously providing the funds necessary to conduct this research.

Findings

What is your current setting?

- About a quarter of the respondents indicated that they serve in a hospital setting. Following that setting, we find that 21 percent serve in long-term care settings. The next largest SPC setting is not a setting at all: 15 percent say they are retired.
- If we remove retired respondents and those on leave from call from our analysis (figure 1), we find that of the currently active SPC respondents, 32 percent serve in hospitals, 28 percent serve in long-term care facilities, and 12 percent serve in counseling centers.

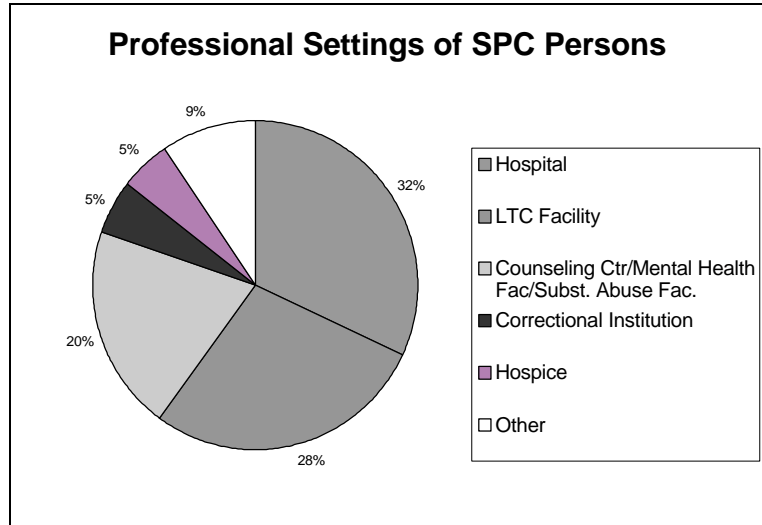


Figure 1

What is/are your role(s) in SPC ministry?

- Respondents indicated what roles (including an “other” option) they serve in their SPC ministry. Over half of the respondents say that they serve as chaplain in their setting, 20 percent say that they serve as pastoral counselors and 20 percent serve as administrators (respondents could choose more than one response). Only 10 percent indicated that they serve as a CPE supervisor (figure 2).

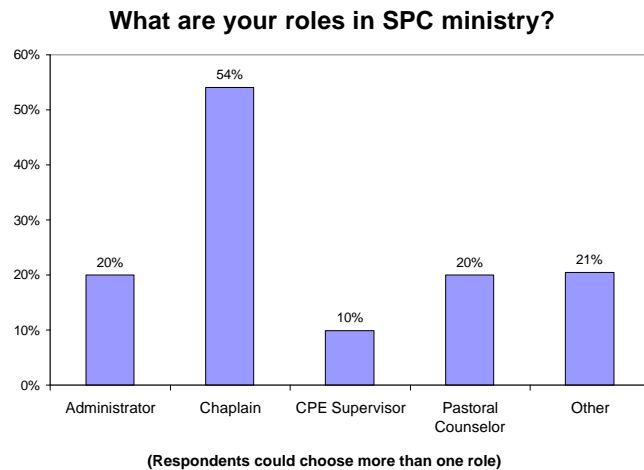


Figure 2

What affiliation is your current setting?

- About 35 percent of the respondents indicate they currently serve in an ELCA affiliated organization. About 15 percent serve in a private non-profit (not religious-based) organization and about 10 percent serve in a government affiliated setting.

Is a church affiliation required for your current position?

- About 80 percent of the respondents indicated that a church affiliation was preferred or required (figure 3).
- Of those positions requiring a church affiliation, just under half require any religious body affiliation, a quarter require an ELCA affiliation, and 18 percent prefer an ELCA affiliation (figure 4)

How connected do you feel to your congregation? Your conference/cluster? Your synod? The churchwide organization?

- We asked respondents to rate how connected they feel on a five-point scale to different expressions of the church (1 is “very connected” and 5 is “not at all connected”). The percentage of those who feel connected or very connected (a 1 or 2 on the scale) to their congregations is much higher than respondents’ feeling of connection to any other expression (figure 5).

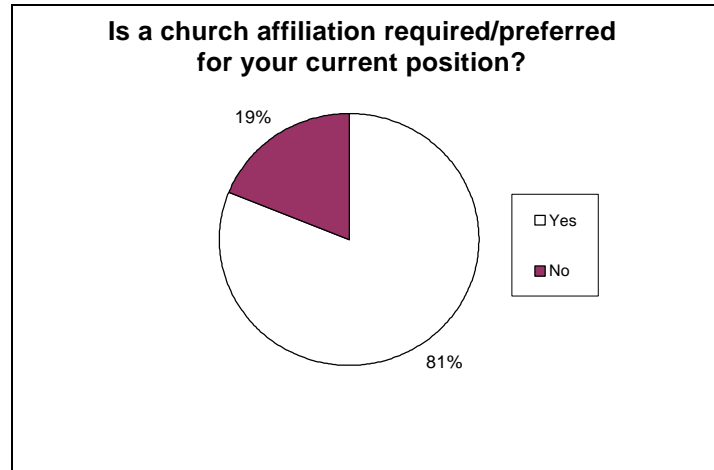


Figure 3

What affiliation is required/preferred?

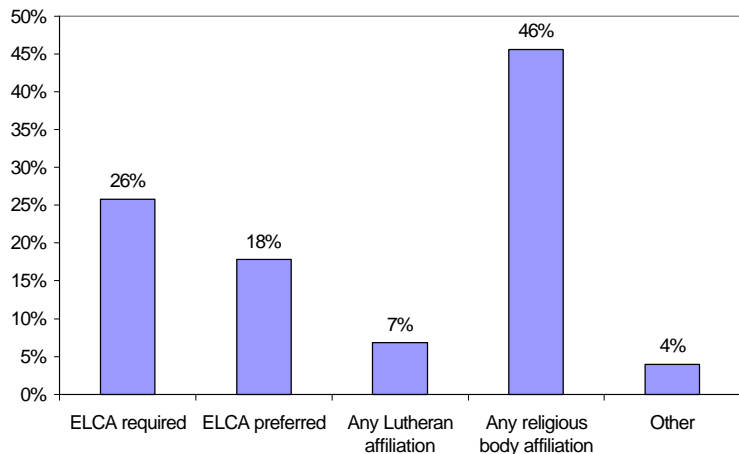


Figure 4

- Almost three-quarters of the respondents indicate they are connected or very connected to their congregations and about a half feel connected to their synod. However, just under a third indicate they are connected or very connected to their cluster or conference. Under 20 percent indicate they feel connected or very connected to the churchwide organization.

Full-time/Part-time SPC ministry?

- Over three-quarters of the respondents serve full-time in SPC ministry. The remainder serve part-time (figure 6).

How valuable would the following gatherings be to you? How likely are you to attend?

- We listed six possible gatherings and asked respondents to rate the value of each gathering in terms of its ability to facilitate networking and support opportunities (figure 7). Respondents rated the value on a five-point scale with 1 as “very valuable,” 3 as “somewhat valuable” and 5 as “not at all valuable.” Over 70 percent of all respondents rated each gathering as at least somewhat valuable (a 1, 2, or a 3 response on the 5-point scale). Considering only those with a 1 or a 2 response, we find that the top three gathering choices are gatherings with synod bishops and staff (60 percent), local peer group

How connected do you feel to these church expressions?

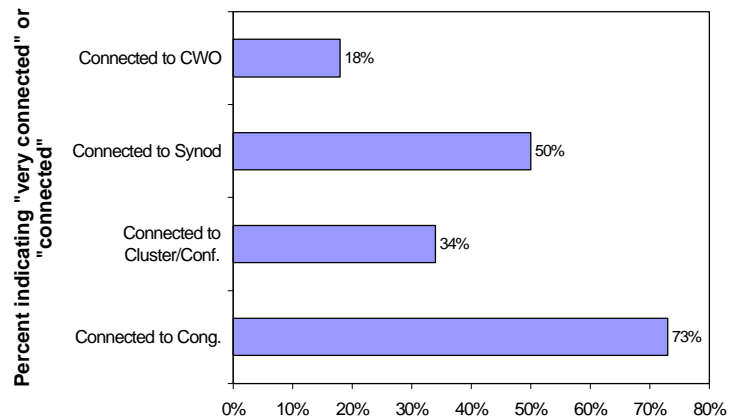


Figure 5

Full-time/Part-time Status of SPC Persons

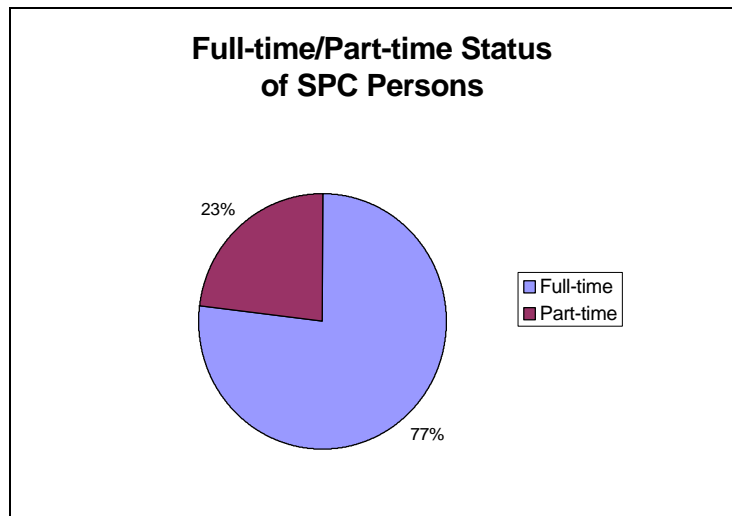


Figure 6

gatherings (55 percent), and professional association gatherings (54 percent).

- As a follow-up, we asked respondents to think about the likelihood that they would actually attend these gatherings. Respondents rated this likelihood on a 5-point scale with 1 as “very likely to attend,” 3 as “somewhat likely” and 5 as “not at all likely to attend.” Considering only those with a high likelihood of attending (a 1 or a 2 response), we find that 65 percent of respondents said that they were likely to attend a gathering with synod bishop and staff, 55 percent said they were likely to attend a gathering at the synod assembly, and 53 percent said they were likely to attend a local peer group gathering.

- Both of these questions (the value and the likelihood of attending) indicate that respondents prefer, and will most likely attend, gatherings on a local or community (such as synod events, and to a lesser degree, professional associations) level.

- When we consider only active respondents (removing on leave from call and retired respondents) we find that active SPC respondents are more likely, in general, to think they would attend the gatherings (value of gatherings doesn’t change)

**How valuable are these gatherings?
How likely are you to attend?**

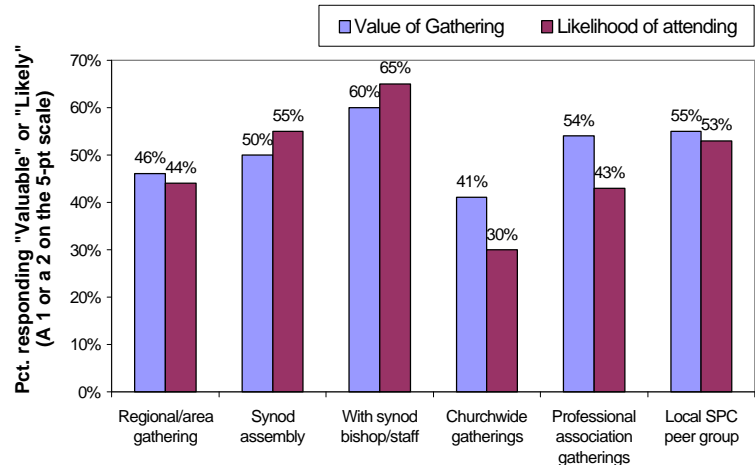


Figure 7

**Likelihood of Active SPC Persons
to Attend Gatherings
(Excl. Retired/On leave from call persons)**

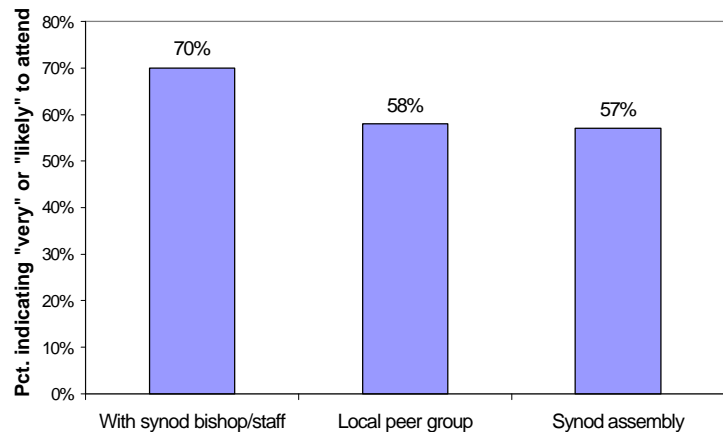


Figure 8

(figure 8). While the top three responses don't change, the percentages do change: 70 percent indicated they would likely attend a gathering with synod bishop and staff, 58 percent indicated they would likely attend a local peer group gathering, and 57 percent indicated they would attend a gathering at their synod assembly.

What should be the priorities for the office of the Director for Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Education?

- Respondents had mixed opinions on how the director should prioritize his time (figure 9). The highest response in any priority category was 63 percent indicating that interpreting and advocating for SPC persons in the church should be a high priority. Nearly one half of the respondents indicated that coordinating the endorsement process should be a high priority for the director.
- While the medium and low priority responses were mixed, 77 percent indicated that serving as a resource person for SPC gatherings should be a medium or low priority and 73 percent indicated that developing resources for fund-raising should be a medium or low priority for the director.

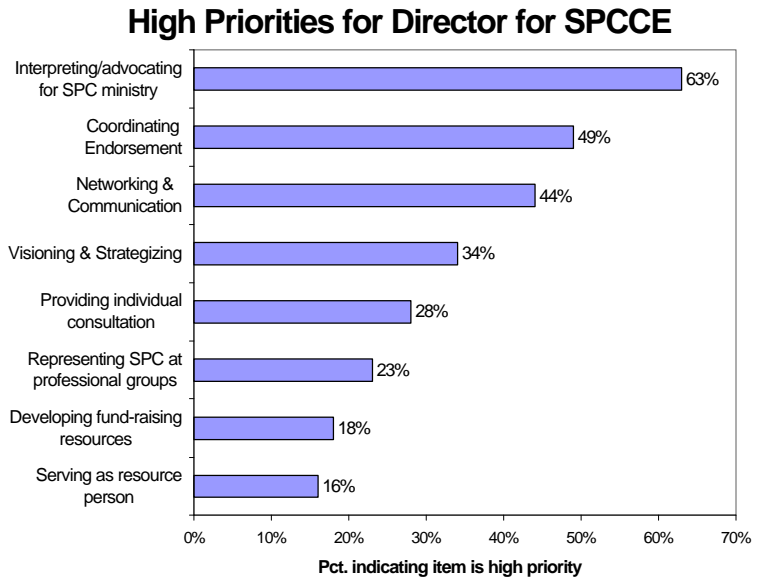


Figure 9

How often does the synod staff person contact you?

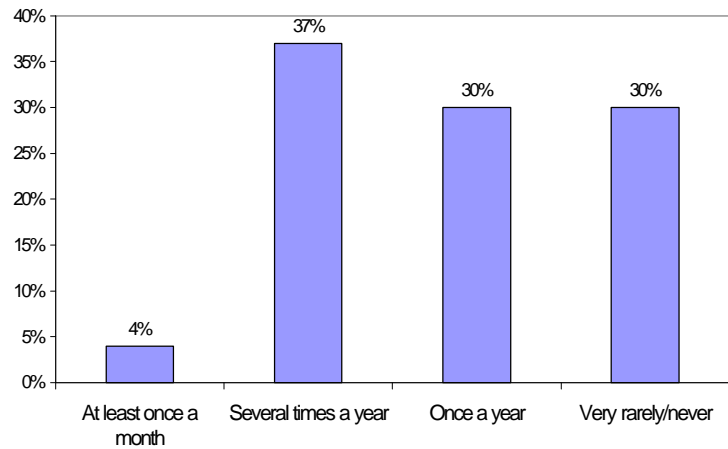


Figure 10

Are you aware of a structural unit in your synod that addresses SPC concerns or issues? A staff person who relates to SPC concerns and issues?

- Forty-four percent of the respondents were aware of a structural unit in their synod that addressed SPC concerns/issues. Of those who were aware of a unit (such as a committee or an advisory groups), about a quarter reported that these units engaged in support services (such as networking) and/or fostering church connectedness. Another 15 percent reported that these groups participated in the call process (respondents could choose more than one response for the question).

- Forty-five percent of the respondents were aware of a staff person in their synod who related to SPC concerns/issues. Of those, about 40 percent reported that this staff person initiates contact with them once a month or several times a year (figure 10) and a similar percentage indicates that they contact this staff person once a month or several times a year (figure 11).

What is your current Ecclesiastical SPC Endorsement Status?

- Sixty-eight percent of the respondents indicated they are endorsed. Twenty three percent indicated that they are not endorsed (figure 12).

How often do you contact the synod staff person?

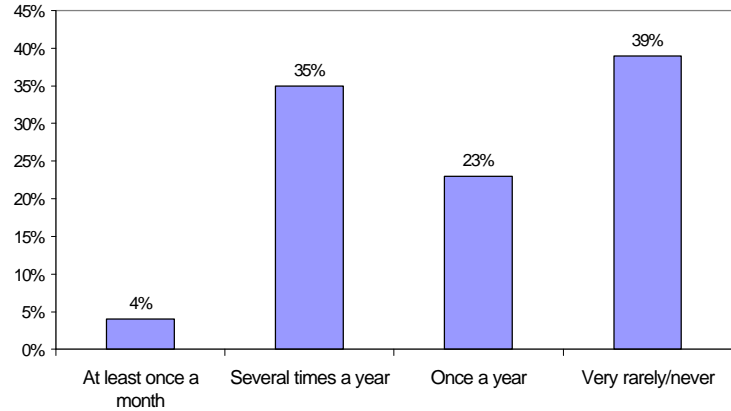


Figure 11

What is your endorsement status?

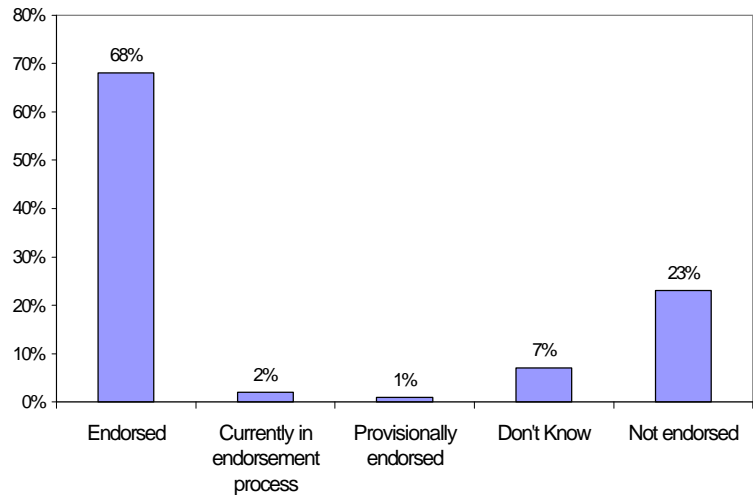


Figure 12

- About 15 percent of the respondents left this question blank, perhaps increasing the proportion of respondents who aren't endorsed or who don't know or can't remember their endorsement status.
- A disproportionate number of non-endorsed SPC persons serve in long-term care and correctional institution settings when compared to the full population of SPC persons. Likewise, a higher proportion of endorsed persons work in hospitals and counseling centers when compared to the full population. Figure 13 compares the proportions of endorsed and non-endorsed people in a sample of the settings listed in question one.

Selected Settings of Endorsed and Non-Endorsed SPC Persons
(see figure 1 for complete listing)

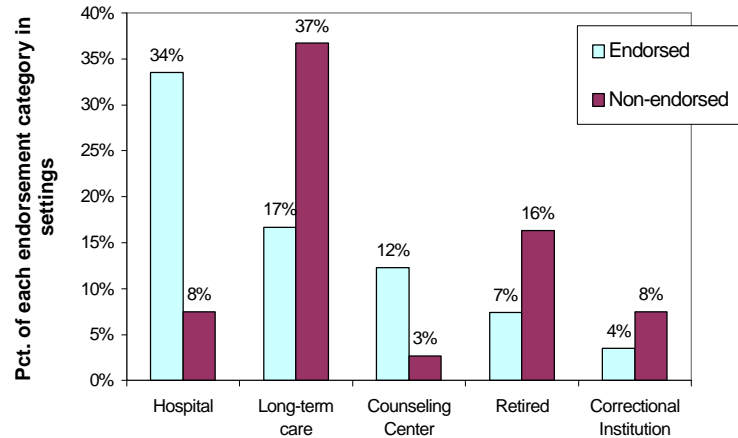


Figure 13

How well does the current endorsement process work?

- Forty-four percent of the respondents believe that the endorsement process works very well or somewhat well while 11 percent indicate that the process doesn't work very well or not well at all (figure 14). We should note that the percentages of those without an opinion (12 percent) or who don't know (32 percent) are larger than those with negative opinions about the endorsement process. Removing retired and on leave from call persons from the analysis does not change the proportion of responses.

How well does the endorsement process work?

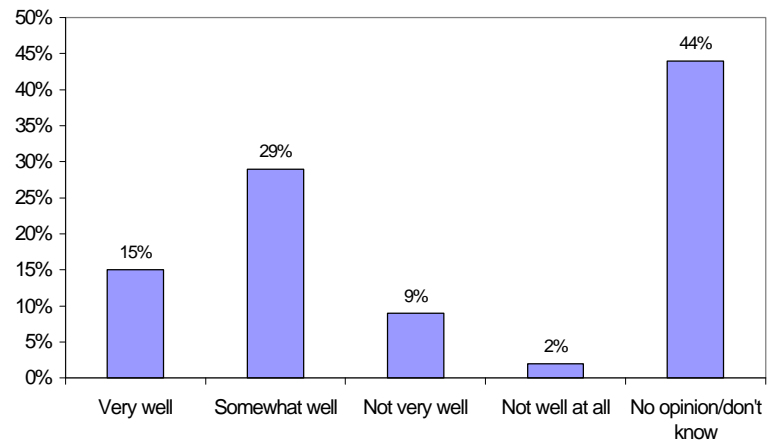


Figure 14

Are you in favor of a new "registered" category?

- A larger proportion of respondents are in favor of this category (42 percent) than those who are not in favor of this category (24 percent). Again, the proportion of respondents without an opinion on this matter (34 percent) is larger than those who don't favor the creation of this new category (figure 15).

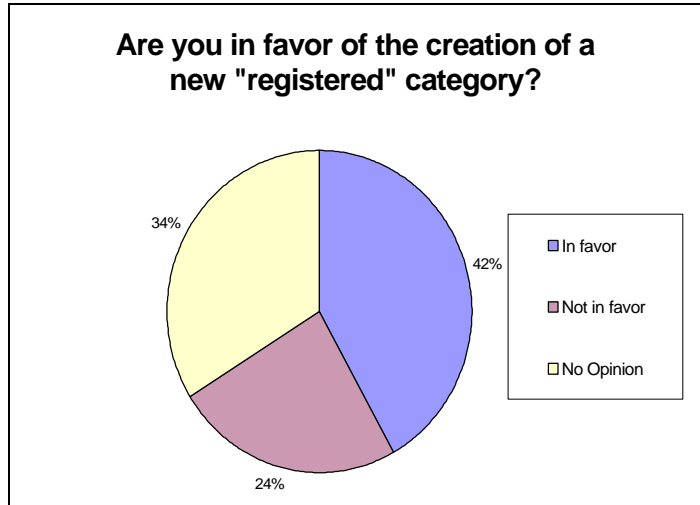


Figure 15

Comment Analysis

Specialized Pastoral Care Questionnaire respondents wrote extensive comments, particularly on the questions regarding endorsement (13-15) and the final open-ended questions (16-18). Because of the qualitative nature of respondent comments, this analysis is not representative of all respondents, but does provide a description of the range of subjects addressed in these questions, as well as some indication of the general frequency of these comments. This analysis examines the comments made on the three questions receiving the highest amount of comments: questions 15, 16, and 17.

Q. 15: Are you in favor of creating this registered category? Any additional comments on the endorsement process?

Comments on question 15 generally fell into two categories: those who supported more rigorous standards (or more rigorous adherence to the current standards) for endorsement and those who supported an alternative to endorsement. Within these two general comment categories, attitudes toward the proposed “registered” endorsement category varied. Some respondents were not in favor of the registered category because they believed this would diminish the importance of endorsement while other respondents were in favor of the registered category because they believed it would lead more SPC persons to being endorsed, creating more accountability. Similarly, some respondents who were opposed to the entire endorsement process supported the creation of a registered category as an alternative to the endorsement process, while others opposed the creation of a registered category because they believed it would be as cumbersome or unnecessary to them as the endorsement process.

Some of the additional comments on the endorsement process in general echoed the themes raised in the comments on the creation of a registered category. Some comments indicated a dissatisfaction with the endorsement process because they did not feel it was necessary for their ministry while others indicated that the process itself was too cumbersome or time-consuming. Some respondents told of previous bad experiences with their area consultation committee. Those who wrote comments supporting the endorsement process generally advocated for more adherence to the endorsement process and for requiring synods to only call SPC persons who have received an endorsement. The following are a selection of comments on the creation of a registered category or on the endorsement process in general.

Not in favor of a registered category

“‘Registered’ would tend to downgrade ‘Endorsed.’”

“Either endorse or not. Use this category only for persons committed to obtaining endorsement.”

“I don’t believe that requirements are too high for endorsement, and that we should be seeking endorsed people for SPC ministries. I wonder if the ‘registered’ category would lead to confusion among institutions in selecting qualified people for their ministries.”

“This process appears to be just another way to make qualified persons go through ‘hoops’ with little to gain. Endorsement does not give you the skills or temperament to work in a SPC position. I believe that if an institution calls you to serve and believes you have the skills to fulfill the call, this should be validated by the church.”

In favor of a registered category

“Let’s raise the professionalism and accountability in our specialty.”

“Provided the process leads to full endorsement.”

“Yes, with some CPE required; I think that 2 or 3 quarters would be helpful. CPE has been beneficial to me!”

General Comments on the Endorsement Process

“1. Cumbersome. 2. Mired in “process”. 3. Often redundant of ordination.”

“Inform persons new to the process – particularly those right out of CPE – headed for PC jobs – to concurrently do both endorsement and APC at the same time.”

“Endorsement in the conflict resolution field exists by call process through the synod council. Because there are very few of us in the conflict resolution field (if not unique), the typical chaplaincy process does not apply or make much sense. It is an entirely different field.”

“We all need to continue advocating for the process, especially with bishops and SMO presidents/CEOs.”

“I am not aware that it has any ‘teeth,’ nor is it understood well among Synod staff people, nor candidacy committees.”

“I believe the synod/bishops need to take more seriously the endorsement process and recommendations and not issue calls to person who have not used the consultation process. We have far too many exceptions.”

“Not enough ‘teeth’ in requiring SPC endorsement of ALL persons in specialized ministries.”

“When I indicated interest [in endorsement], there was a ‘grandfathering’ provision which I thought I might pursue. Now it’s no longer available. But even that required more training than I’ve had! I do wish my many years in parish ministry and my nine years in SPC could qualify as ‘equivalent’ in some way!”

“On both occasions [2 previous applications for endorsement], committees with which I met consisted of extremely unqualified persons who did not understand the SPC process, had little or no ability in face-to-face interpersonal relationships, and exhibited no interest in me as a pastoral counselor, or in the furtherance of my professional advancement.”

Q. 16: “What are one or two of your greatest concerns about SPC ministry? What advice would you give for addressing these concerns?”

In general, respondents’ comments about their greatest concerns about SPC ministry fell into three categories: concerns about isolation within the SPC community and within the wider church, concerns about the integrity/necessity of the endorsement process, and concerns about recruitment and support of future SPC persons.

Isolation

Most of the respondents who indicated concerns in this general area commented on their sense of isolation from the church or as being “outside” the general understanding of ministry. These respondents wished for more communication and for being seen as a valuable resource within their conferences and synods. Others commented on a perception that SPC persons receive less compensation when compared to the compensation of parish pastors. This perceived inequity further emphasized a sense of isolation from the wider church.

While some respondents indicated that they felt isolated or marginalized by those outside of the SPC community, some respondents felt that this isolation was also generated from within the SPC community. A few hypothesized that SPC persons, through their clinical training or their unique areas of ministry distanced themselves from others in the church. Others believed that this sense of isolation could be diminished if they had more access to mentoring relationships or networking/peer groups. A few other respondents attributed this sense of isolation or marginalization to the increased tendency for specialization which makes the SPC field too fractured.

Advice on how to address these concerns focused on more advocacy for SPC persons and their ministries, both within the wider church and within the institutions in which SPC persons work. In particular, some respondents called for more advocacy for funding SPC ministries.

A sample of comments from this category:

“We are not ‘lone rangers’ although we often have and project this kind of attitude. Does clinical training foster ‘individualism’ and if so, how does it compliment quality pastoral care not only with individuals but also in the communities where we serve? . . . Can they [these trends] be identified and addressed (if they are not now) in clinical settings by CPE supervisors?”

“That it is viewed as a vital part of Word and Sacrament ministry and not treated as a ‘second class ministry.’”

“That it have a significant and integral relationship to congregational life.”

“I feel like I’m ‘outside’ the church, that even other pastors see me that way. Sometimes along comes a movement to downgrade my status/position in the church (i.e., a ‘lower level’ of ordination). I think I work to be involved/included.”

“My concern is for the greater use of the skills of persons in SPC. For the most part, our skills seem unused by the church beyond one’s local congregation. Please keep lifting up SPC to the church structure as a resource.”

Endorsement Process

As with the comments on the endorsement process earlier in the questionnaire, these respondents either advocated for stricter enforcement of the endorsement process as a way of maintaining the integrity of the SPC field, or opposed the endorsement process because of its perceived lack of relevancy or importance in their ministry. Those who wrote comments in favor of the current endorsement process indicated that they had concerns about maintaining the current endorsement standards, or about non-endorsed people serving in SPC positions. Those who wrote comments against the current endorsement process tended to indicate dissatisfaction with the process itself, because it was cumbersome or time-consuming or because they had a bad experience with the area SPC consulting committee. Others did not see a benefit from going through the process. Notably, more respondents wrote comments supporting the endorsement process than against it.

A sample of comments from this category:

“I have concerns about clergy who may get some additional training in counseling and who ‘set up shop’ without endorsement or affiliation with a group like AAPC/AAMFT. I think we have some very marginally connected and marginally accountable people out there. Keep educating clergy and bishops about the importance of endorsement and accountability . . .”

“The hoops that many of us have to jump through to be endorsed vs. how people and bishops have short-circuited the process . . .”

“I think the church should ‘cool it’ in regards to the endorsement agenda. Yes, do so for those who are just starting out and looking to enter into the field. It’s another story altogether for those who are already in the field and doing well. Pursuing a process then becomes unduly burdensome and at best does little more than justify some one else’s job description.”

Recruitment of new SPC Persons

Finally, some respondents had concerns about a perceived shortage of new SPC persons coming to the field. Related to this concern, a few respondents shared concerns about a perceived shortage of CPE supervisors. For both of these concerns, respondents advocated for more recruitment and then support of SPC persons. Some connected the problems recruiting new SPC persons to their concerns about a restrictive endorsement process. Others suggested engaging in more recruitment and/or increased presence at seminaries.

“The dwindling number of Lutherans in SPC and in ACPE supervision. What’s happening to our sem grads that they don’t seek ministries outside the four walls of the parish?”

“That the need for trained chaplains to serve in specialized care sites still exists and the church must raise up people who are willing and able to serve in these areas.”

Q 17: “What support from the church do you need in your ministry?”

Fewer respondents wrote comments on this question than on question 16. Although comments covered a wider range of topics, most respondents who commented on this question indicated that they needed stronger relationships to congregations and to the wider church and greater acknowledgment of the value of SPC ministry.

Stronger relationships

Related to the comments on isolation in question 16, these comments indicated a need for stronger relationships with the wider church and, specifically, with congregations. Some respondents commented on the perception that SPC persons are incapable of parish ministry, or on the difficulties of returning to parish ministry after serving in the specialized pastoral care field. Respondents also noted that they would like to have a stronger presence in the synod, to have a better relationship with synod bishops and staff, and to serve on synod committees.

A sample of comments from this topic:

“To be included in all mailings normally sent to parish clergy.”

“When I was active in the chaplaincy, we worked with churches. That needs to continue. The chaplains and the congregations need to work hand in hand.”

“Acceptance of specialized ministry as valid Word and Sacrament ministry. The church seems to ‘look down’ on any ministry which is outside of parish ministry. It is difficult to re-enter parish ministry following any service in specialized ministry. One cannot stay in the ELCA regular pension or medical coverage (except at undue expense) when serving non-ELCA institutions in specialized ministry.”

Greater acknowledgment of the value of SPC ministry

Respondents requested more advocacy to the wider church of the value of SPC ministry. For some, this advocacy involved more communication with congregations about the SPC resources and persons in their community. For others, this advocacy was with the synods or churchwide organization about the value of SPC ministry in the wider church and the need for more funding, resources, and persons in the specialized pastoral care field.

A sample of comments from this topic:

“Inclusion in the church; integration of my ministry; being called on for special projects within the synod.”

“Acknowledgment of the value of our work.”

“A bishop who recognizes the valid ministry of persons outside the parish.”

Other Comments

“Continued educational and enrichment opportunities.”

“Actually, I feel very supported by my employer, my synod staff, and many of my colleagues.”

“Most, if not all, of the clergy serving congregations have synod assembly or similar costs reimbursed, but most SPC folks pay out of pocket. Several of my peers, including me, often do not attend due to financial burden.”

“Regional meetings/in services/dialogues/sharing at Zion meetings/conferences. Now that there is internet, be able to talk with peers in same field by e-mail.”

“An easy way for us to continue to contribute to our ELCA pension.”

Specialized Pastoral Care Questionnaire
January 1999

1. In which type of **SPC setting** do you primarily work? (Mark only **one** response that indicates **where** you work. If you work in multiple settings, choose the one response that represents where most of your SPC work time is spent.)

1.5% Academic Institution	0.8 Law Enforcement Agency
4.1 Correctional Institution	21.1% Long-Term Care facility
9.0 Counseling Center	4.3 Mental Health facility
1.1 Developmental Disability facility	2.4 Social Service Agency
0.3 Fire Department	2.0 Substance Abuse facility
24.1 Hospital	0.4 Workplace (in a business or industry)
3.7 Hospice	0.9 None: currently on leave from call

2. What are your roles in the setting identified above?
(Fill in the circles next to all that apply)

- 20.3% Administrator
- 54.7 Chaplain
- 9.9 C.P.E. Supervisor
- 20.2 Pastoral Counselor
- 20.5 Other: _____
- 5.0 Other: _____

3. What is/are your area(s) of specialization (such as ethics, marriage/family counseling, oncology)?

4. What is the affiliation of your setting?
(Fill in the circles next to all that apply)

- 36.0% ELCA affiliated
- 7.9 Joint ELCA & LCMS affiliation
- 7.1 Non-denominational
- 9.4 Other denomination: _____
- 10.3 Government
- 15.6 Private non-profit organization (not religious-based)
- 4.1 For-profit organization
- 6.7 Other: _____

5. Is a church affiliation required or preferred for your current position?

- 19.0% No
- 81.0 Yes → What affiliation is required or preferred?
- 25.8 ELCA affiliation required
- 17.8 ELCA affiliation preferred
- - LCMS affiliation preferred
- 6.8 Any Lutheran affiliation preferred/required
- 45.6 Any religious body affiliation preferred/required
- 4.0 Other: _____

6. Are you a member of or hold certification with a professional organization?

34.9 No

65.1 Yes → If you are a **member** of one or more of the following professional organizations, please fill in the circle next to that organization in the left column. Please fill in the circle on the right to indicate that you hold **certification** with this organization. (Fill in the circles next to **all** that apply)

<u>I am a member</u>	<u>I hold certification</u>
8.5 American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT)	8.4
0.8 American Association for Ministry in the Workplace (AAMW)	0.5
11.0 American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC)	10.7
0.8 American Association on Mental Retardation-Religion Division (AAMR)	7.3
1.8 American Correctional Chaplains Association (ACCA)	0.9
15.9 Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)	14.6
23.2 Association of Professional Chaplains (APC)	25.0
2.7 National Association of Social Workers (NASW)	2.3
0.4 National Institute of Business and Industrial Chaplains (NIBIC)	0.8

7. Is your current call to SPC ministry . . .

77% Full-time?
23 Part-time?

8. How connected do you feel to each of the following expressions of the church? If a particular item does not apply, simply fill in the “NA” (not applicable) option at the end.

	<u>Very connected</u>		<u>Somewhat connected</u>		<u>Not at all connected</u>		<u>Mean Resp.</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>		
a. Your own congregation	53	20	20	4	4	1.86	
b. Your cluster or conference	17	17	29	18	20	3.08	
c. Your synod	23	27	32	13	5	2.50	
d. ELCA churchwide office	7	11	36	29	17	3.38	

9. How valuable would the following types of gatherings be in facilitating networking and support opportunities among specialized pastoral care persons? Secondly, how likely are you to attend any of the following events?

	<u>Very Not at all valuable</u>		<u>Somewhat valuable</u>			<u>Very likely to attend</u>		<u>Somewhat likely to attend</u>		<u>Not at all likely to attend</u>	
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
	a. Regional or area gatherings	21	25	37	11	7	→ 21	23	26	16	14
b. Synod assembly (caucus for SPC persons)	19	31	32	12	6	→ 33	22	22	11	11	
c. With synod bishop/staff	30	30	26	9	5	→ 43	22	18	8	9	
d. Churchwide gatherings (i.e., Zion)	19	22	32	15	13	→ 18	12	23	22	25	
e. Professional Association conferences	26	28	26	14	7	→ 22	21	27	14	16	
f. Local SPC peer group gatherings	25	30	28	11	6	→ 28	25	25	11	10	

Any comments on any of the above gathering suggestions?

10. Are you aware of an identifiable structural unit (such as a committee, advisory group, etc.) within your synod that deals with specialized pastoral care concerns or issues?

44% Yes → If yes, please answer both a and b below

→ a. What is the name of this structural unit? _____

39 No

17 Don't know

b. What specific responsibilities and activities does this unit engage in? (Mark all that apply)

27% Support services (such as networking)

24 Fostering Church connectedness

15 Call process

5 Site review and visitation

5 Starting new SPC ministries

3 Conflict management

11 Don't know

11. Are you aware of an identifiable staff person in your synod who relates to specialized pastoral care concerns and issues?

45% Yes → → If yes, please answer both a and b below

41	No	a. How often does this staff person initiate contact with you?	b. How often do you initiate contact with this staff person?
14	Don't know	(Of total)	(Of total)
		4% At least once a month	2
		37 Several times a year	16
		30 Once a year	13
		30 Very rarely/never	13
		4% At least once a month	2
		35 Several times a year	15
		23 Once a year	10
		39 Very rarely/never	17

12. Following is a list of services provided by the office of the Director for Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Education. Please read through the entire list and indicate how you believe these services should be prioritized by marking each item as either a "high priority," "medium priority," or "low priority." Because not every item can be a "high priority," please make sure that no more than three items are marked in one priority category.

	<u>High Priority</u>	<u>Medium Priority</u>	<u>Low Priority</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
a. Facilitating networking and communication (through newsletters, website, etc.)	44	43	9	4
b. Coordinating the endorsement process	49	32	12	7
c. Interpreting/advocating for SPC persons in the Church	63	26	6	5
d. Representing SPC at professional/ ecumenical groups (such as COMISS, APC, AAPC, etc.)	23	43	26	8
e. Providing individual consultation and guidance for SPC concerns.	28	45	22	6
f. Serving as resource person for SPC gatherings	16	47	30	7
g. Visioning and Strategizing	34	42	17	8
h. Developing resources for fund-raising (scholarships, new ministries, etc.)	18	34	39	10

13. What is your current Ecclesiastical SPC Endorsement status?

68% Endorsed

2 Currently in the endorsement process

1 Provisionally endorsed

7 Don't know

23 Not endorsed → What is your primary reason for not pursuing endorsement?

14. In your opinion, how well does the current endorsement process work?

15% Very well 29% Somewhat well 9% Not very well 2% Not well at all

12% I have no opinion 32% I don't know

15. One current consideration is the addition of a "Registered" category for those who do not meet all the requirements for endorsement. An area consultation committee would review and assess individual readiness for SPC ministry for all non-endorsed persons in SPC ministry. **Are you in favor of creating this "registered" category?**

42% I am in favor of this category. 24% I am not in favor of this category. 34% I have no opinion.

Any additional comments on the endorsement process?

Please answer the questions below in the space provided, or by attaching additional pages as needed.

16. What are one or two of your greatest concerns about specialized pastoral care ministry? What advice would you give to the Director for Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Education for addressing those concerns?

17. What support from the church do you need in your ministry?

18. Do you have other concerns that haven't been raised in this questionnaire?

Thanks for your time and your thoughts! If you have further comments on any of the above questions, please feel free to attach additional pages as needed. When completed, please return this questionnaire to:

ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation

8765 W. Higgins Rd.

Chicago, IL 60631

Any questions? Call Kathy Sime at 800/638-3522, ext. 2995