



Reverend John R. Simon

Director of WMC Health Network Chaplaincy Services

The Rev. John Simon is the Director of Network Chaplaincy at Westchester Medical Center Health Network in Valhalla, NY. An ordained Baptist clergy of 32 years, he has served for 20 years as a professional caregiver across the nation. Rev. Simon also serves as the Senior Pastor of the Historic Second Baptist Church of Poughkeepsie, NY.

John is board-certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains and is Secretary of its Board of Directors. He is a graduate of Yale University School of Divinity (M.Div.) and the Iliff School of Theology (M.T.S.) with distinction. A nationally recognized speaker in the field of professional chaplaincy, Rev. Simon has presented national lectures and webinars, and has written articles on chaplaincy leadership and the integration of spiritual care into the patient's experience.



Reverend Johnny C. Bush

Certified Supervisor, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE), Assistant Director for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

The Rev. Johnny C. Bush is an ACPE Supervisor for Chaplaincy Education, certified in 2003. He is an ordained Missionary Baptist and is Senior Pastor of the Greater Faith Baptist Church of Stamford, CT. For over 15 years Rev. Bush has served as part-time Supervisory Faculty for all levels of CPE in multiple healthcare institutions with the former HealthCare Chaplaincy Network in New York City. For 10 years he was the Coordinator and Supervisor for CPE at the historic Riverside Church of New York City. He presently serves in national leadership with ACPE as a Certification Reviewer and the Co-Convener of ACPE's largest Community of Practice, focusing on racial, ethnic and multicultural matters in professional development for ministry and chaplaincy. He was appointed Assistant Director for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Westchester Medical Center in 2015.

Rev. Bush earned his M.Div. degree from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC.



Rabbi Charles H. Sheer

Staff Chaplain

Rabbi Sheer has been Staff Chaplain at WMC for ten years, during which time he has taught medical ethics at New York Medical College. He was the Jewish Chaplain at Columbia University and Barnard College for 34 years, presiding over one of the largest Jewish campus communities in the country.

A Board Certified Chaplain with the National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC), Rabbi Sheer chairs its NAJC's Continuing Education Committee. He has published "Bikkur Holim: The Origin of Jewish Pastoral Care," a book on Maimonides, and many other popular and scholarly articles.

Rabbi Sheer earned his M.A. in Talmudic Literature and his Ordination from Yeshiva University. He is a member of the Rabbinical Council of America and has served on its executive committee.



Reverend Douglas Phillips

The Rev. Douglas S. Phillips has been a Staff Chaplain at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY for over 20 years. He was ordained in ministry in 1981 by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and prior to his Chaplaincy work served parishes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. He continues as a Parish Associate at the Katonah Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Phillips is Board Certified through the Association of Professional Chaplains. He is a graduate of Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA and received a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ. As a Chaplain, he has written extensively on pastoral care topics related to burn and trauma.

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Father Peter Claver Ugoagwu

Father Peter Claver Ugoagwu has been an ordained Catholic priest of the Diocese of Issele-Uku Delta State Nigeria for 27 years. He is a graduate of St. Peter and Paul Seminary Bodija Ibadan at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and of Urban University in Rome, Italy. Father Peter is a board certified member of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) and serves on the NACC Certification Board. He has worked in the Archdiocese of New York since 2005 as Catholic chaplain at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh, NY. He obtained double graduate degrees in Mental health and Pastoral Counseling at Fordham University in New York and worked with individuals with alcohol and substance of abuse issues at the clinic of the Catholic Charities of New York. He also obtained a Ph.D. from Capella University, where he specialized in General Psychology and was an Adjunct Professor of Developmental Psychology at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh before his latest appointment at Westchester Medical Center in 2014 as Catholic priest chaplain. He continues to conduct research in his areas of interest in philosophy, spirituality and psychology. His maiden book, "Parenting a Happy Child," was published in 2019.



Samsiah Abdul-Majid

Samsiah Abdul-Majid is board certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains, and endorsed by the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA). She is assigned to palliative care and Muslim patients. Previously, she served as Muslim Chaplain at Choate Rosemary Hall, a boarding school in Wallingford, CT. Prior to chaplaincy, Samsiah had a long career with the United Nations, serving in Bangkok, Thailand, and New York.

Samsiah holds a Master of Arts degree in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and a Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy from Hartford Seminary in Hartford CT, as well as a Master in Business Administration degree from Assumption University in Bangkok, Thailand. Samsiah is active in her mosque, the Upper Westchester Muslim Society in Pleasantville, NY, serving as the Co-Chair of its Interfaith Committee, as well as in the national Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC). She is also currently engaged in research on Muslim chaplaincy, a joint project of AMC and Boston University.



Reverend Dr. Hugh Marriott

Staff Chaplain

The Rev. Dr. Hugh B. Marriott is an ordained minister and the senior pastor of the Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church in Mount Vernon, NY. As a former executive at one of the nation's largest telecommunications service providers, he left after a successful 16-year career to pursue active ministry. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor in the department of Managerial Sciences at the Long Island University (Brooklyn), and as an Assistant Chaplain at the Westchester Medical Health Center in Valhalla, NY, having completed his CPE Residency in 2018.

Dr. Marriott earned a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the City College of New York, a Master of Science degree from The Stevens Institute, and both a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Alliance Theological Seminary at Nyack College.