

## Spiritual Care Hospital Ministry (SCHM)

Spiritual Care Hospital Ministry is the continuation of the Chaplaincy Committee, which operated for 34 years for the Ottawa Presbytery. We provide a United Church Representative to the Spiritual Care Advisory Committees of both the Ottawa Hospitals and the Queensway Carleton Hospitals. We also maintain a United Church team coordinator in each of the main Ottawa hospitals, who mentor teams of trained volunteers to visit United Church patients from throughout the Region.

2020 was a difficult year for us as we grieved the loss of connections and support for hospitalized patients. All visiting ministries in city hospitals were shut down due to Pandemic restrictions. Security issues meant that we didn't even have access to patient name lists that would have allowed us to conduct visits virtually or through the mail.

Hospital Spiritual Care Advisory Committees did continue to meet virtually, and our representatives lobbied for patient rights to have a clergy visit if requested. Our visiting teams continued to participate in education seminars with Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program, and we hosted a training event on providing Spiritual Care for patients participating in Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). Our Ministry has been part of the successful lobbying effort of the past 5 years to broaden access to MAiD, as this was a frequent request from our patients.

We look forward to the day when we can return to providing Spiritual Care to the thousands of United Church members across our region who receive care in Ottawa hospitals.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Copeland, Spiritual Care Hospital Ministry