

## HINTS FOR THE APPLICATION PROCESS



Northeast Georgia Health System

**ACPE Clinical Pastoral Education Center  
at Northeast Georgia Medical Center**

Thank you for your application, and I look forward to our continued conversation about the possibility of your doing CPE here at NGMC. Before sending the application in, please consider the following:

- CPE is a process of learning that requires honest and vulnerable reflection on how we have become the people we are. We are not simply looking for the chronological facts of your life; instead, we are wanting a narrative of what those facts mean to your life. What impact or difference did those facts make in your life. What events were most formative, and what people helped to shape your life most? However, don't just name those things; share how those are important to you. What gift or hardship did you receive from them?
- The second thing to keep in mind is that we are not just formed by the positive things in our life. What deaths, what dysfunctions, what life experiences have been painful and still formative, just not always in positive ways. If your mother died when you were 8, and then your father remarried a woman you came to know as an alcoholic, what lessons did you learn from them?

This may seem like a strange request in an application process; however, this is the beginning of our learning how to work together. CPE is about strengthening the gifts we already embrace, learning how to use the things that feel like a thorn in our flesh, and perhaps even recognizing some of the painful things we think of as liabilities can be our greatest gifts in pastoral and spiritual care. This kind of deep personal learning happens only in safe enough and trustworthy enough holding environments. Our shared narratives are the beginning of building that kind of environment.