



Clinical Fellowship in Psychodynamic Chaplaincy

September 2026 – May 2027 • Spiritual Care Association (SCA)

The Spiritual Care Association aspires to providing the very best in cutting-edge training for chaplains. The Clinical Fellowship is an innovative program for those who aspire to raise the bar on the quality and scope of their ministry, making them uniquely valuable spiritual care providers for the 21st century. The program takes as its charter SCA's 2025 white paper *Psychodynamic Chaplaincy: Psychological and Spiritual Integration in Healthcare*.

Who it's for

Board-certified SCA chaplains (or chaplains with 4 CPE units and clinical experience) who want advanced, **psychodynamically informed** practice.

Program snapshot:

- **Length:** 9 months
- **Cohorts:** Initial class up to **16 Fellows** (two cohorts of 6–8)
- **Format (4 pillars):**
 1. **Monthly Didactic (2 hr)** – second Tuesdays, **8:00–10:00 pm ET / 5:00–7:00 pm PT**
 2. **Case Consultation Group – 2×/month, 1-2 hrs** each (cohort-scheduled)
 3. **Cohort Group Supervision – 1×/month, 1.5 hrs** (cohort-scheduled)
 4. **Individual Supervision – 2×/month, 1 hr** (scheduled with supervisor)
- **Experiential add-on:** Option to participate in a 3-day **Group Relations** conference (in-person or online) conducted by nationally recognized leaders.

The program provides a special opportunity for colleagues to develop working relationships with one another and to connect with recognized leaders in the field.

Director & Lead Supervisor

David Roth, PhD, Clinical Chaplain; Diplomate in Pastoral Supervision/CPE Supervisor; Founder, ClinicalChaplaincy.org Email: davidroth@clinicalchaplaincy.org

What you'll learn

A practical, clinically grounded model including:

- **Psychodynamic concepts:** including transference, countertransference, projection, projective identification, “ever-present others”; ethical use of oneself (after Pamela Cooper-White).

- **Affective & neuropsychanalytic foundations:** Jaak Panksepp's primary emotional systems; Mark Solms and colleagues on affect, memory, prediction error, and reconsolidation—applied to listening, presence, and relational attunement.
- **Reframing “religion/spirituality”:** Clifford Geertz's cultural-systems lens for religious, spiritual, or secular meaning-making (symbolic, affective, embodied).
- **Abductive clinical reasoning:** cultivating curiosity and hypothesis formation in uncertainty (William James; Thomas Sebeok).
- **Group/organizational dynamics:** boundary, authority, role, task, and soul. Cultural countertransference, power, and interdisciplinary team and system-level work.
- **Reflective supervision & experiential learning** tightly linked to real casework and real life situations.

Commitment & expectations

- **Attendance:** ≥ 85% across all components
- **Monthly reflective writing** (typically one case reflection per month)
- **Active participation** in cohort learning, and confidentiality adherence

How to apply (PDFs preferred)

Email **one message** with the following to davidroth@clinicalchaplancy.org:

1. **Statement of Interest & Intent** (500–700 words): your learning aims + current clinical context
2. **CV/Resume, including board certification(s), if any**
3. **Supervisor/Manager Letter** or email of institutional support (*optional but encouraged*)
4. **Brief Case Vignette** (400–600 words, de-identified) focusing on your role and a clinical challenge
5. **Availability constraints** (days/times; time zone)

Applications open: March 1, 2026 (rolling review until full).

Program dates: September 2026 - May 2027.

Tuition & completion

- **Tuition: \$5,000** (two installments: half due within 30 days of acceptance; balance by **August 1, 2026**)
- **Clinical Fellow in Psychodynamic Chaplaincy Certificate** awarded upon successful completion.

Point of contact: davidroth@clinicalchaplancy.org