

## GPC COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

As Gestalt Pastoral Care (GPC) is introduced into a geographic region, groups of people sometimes form around a GPC minister, trainer or intern to learn about healing, grow personally, and support one another in whatever stage of the process they may be in. Where they exist, these groups are called “Communities of Practice.” Gestalt Pastoral Care Associates (GPCA), Inc. encourages their growth and honors each Community’s unique character and needs as the Holy Spirit moves with grace through the people and context of the Community.

Participants in Communities of Practice may include clergy, lay people, clinicians, and GPC interns, ministers and trainers. They meet regularly to transact business, “work” with one another, learn about a particular healing practice, listen to a speaker, and more. Some members move toward authorization in GPC through their participation while others simply appreciate the camaraderie and learning experiences at the gatherings. Communities of Practice have great flexibility and generally evolve organically in response to the Spirit.

To be a GPC Community of Practice, GPCA, Inc. asks that the group:

- has one GPC intern, minister or trainer maintain leadership of the group,
- ensure participants have finished at least one year of Foundation training,
- send an annual written report each December for sharing with the January Board of Trustees meeting,
- abide by the GPC Standards of Ethics,
- seek guidance from a GPC Supervisor in cases of conflict or questions that cannot be answered by the local intern, minister or trainer, and
- donate a minimum annual contribution of \$50 to GPCA, Inc.

In return, the Board of Trustees of GPCA, Inc. agrees to:

- pray for the Community,
- provide support as requested by a Community of Practice and as able by GPCA, Inc., and
- endorse the Community by permitting the GPC name to be used in conjunction with gatherings and events.