



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Rabbi Charles Sheer Joins The HealthCare Chaplaincy as Director of
The Center for Studies in Jewish Pastoral Care**

New York City—Rabbi Charles Sheer has been appointed as the director of The Center for Studies in Jewish Pastoral Care (CSJPC) at The HealthCare Chaplaincy. Prior to The Chaplaincy, Rabbi Sheer served as the Jewish Chaplain at Columbia University and Barnard College for 34 years.

Rabbi Sheer was selected as the director of CSJPC because of his vast experience as an educator, manager, program developer, and fundraiser. “I think this particular mix of experiences will be useful to me in my new role, because I expect my work at CSJPC to draw on each of these areas. During my years at Columbia, I made many, many solid connections in the Jewish community—just outstanding people—and I’m sure having these relationships will make it easier for me to advance the Center,” Sheer says.

Sheer’s principal objective will be to enrich the educational programming of The Chaplaincy. In addition, he will seek to increase awareness of the unique and important contribution that The Chaplaincy has made to the Jewish community. For decades The Chaplaincy has trained rabbis to become effective pastoral caregivers, whether at their congregations or as hospital chaplains. “There is a Jewish value called *hakarat hatov*, which means that one should acknowledge the good that has been done. I want to bring

the message of The Chaplaincy's service to the Jewish community and to explain how The Chaplaincy has taken special care to assure that its clinical pastoral education courses are consistent with Jewish values and tradition. I plan to communicate the wonderful accomplishments of The Chaplaincy—its responsiveness to Jewish needs and its contribution to Jewish life," Sheer says.

"Rabbi Sheer comes to The Chaplaincy at a pivotal point," says Dr. Jackson Kyle, The Chaplaincy's vice president of academic affairs. "The Center for Studies in Jewish Pastoral Care deserves vigorous leadership, and now we have it. Chuck's first weeks on the job here tell me that we'll benefit from his remarkable energy and experience."

Under Sheer's leadership, the Columbia University/Barnard College Hillel became one of the leading Hillel organizations in the country. Due to the expanded needs of the Columbia University community, Rabbi Sheer shepherded the development of the Robert K. Kraft Family Center for Jewish Student Life, made possible by a \$13-million-dollar campaign.

"It's a great privilege for me to be the new director of the Center for Studies in Jewish Pastoral Care. To me, the profound multifaith mission of The HealthCare Chaplaincy reflects the image of God in the opening passage of the Hebrew Bible, the *Tanakh*. 'God is the creator—the lifegiver—who cares for all humanity,'" he says.

The HealthCare Chaplaincy is a multifaith and multicultural community of professionals dedicated to caring for persons in spirit, mind, and body. The Chaplaincy's mission is to further excellence and leadership in pastoral care, education, and research. For more information, visit www.healthcarechaplaincy.org.