

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND GEORGE P. POLK

Being among the first African-American Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisors in the Nation and the World, the Reverend George P. Polk brought to the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education a Passion, Purpose and Personality that is felt and experienced, today. His robust personality, keen intuition and profound vision were evident throughout the organizations and communities in which he was involved. From his certification in 1967 to the present time, ACPE continues to be impacted by the gifts, insights and visions of Rev. Polk.

In the mid 1980's the Reverend George Polk made his mark on the Advocate Health Care System, then Evangelical Health System. He was Director of Pastoral Care and CPE Supervisor at the Advocate Bethany Hospital. His pastoral presence and profound passion for CPE, along with his wholistic connection between community and health care, continue to resonate among staff, patients, families, community leaders and the numerous students he touched during his tenure at Advocate.

Rev. Polk's connection with the faith-community was important to him wherever he lived. We celebrate his pastoral presence in UCC congregations—e.g., Douglas Memorial Community Church, Bethany United Church of Christ, the Congregational Church of Park Manor and Heritage United Church of Christ where he was interim in the 1990's and later returned as an active member. In 2002 Rev. Polk was named "Theologian in Residence" at Heritage United Church of Christ.

While serving in the Chicago area, Rev. Polk shared leadership and vision with the North Central Region Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. He served on committees providing keen insight into the work of CPE and was an avid advocate for inclusivity of diverse persons.

We further celebrate that in 1983, the Reverend George Polk was the first African-American to be nominated for President of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Receiving 37% of the vote demonstrated his influence and impact within the organization.

In the 1990's Rev Polk inspired and initiated the development of the Racial-Ethnic Minority Task Force which emerged into the present day REM Network. Persons of color found a place to address their concerns and connect to their community. Most African-American certified supervisors within ACPE today can credit The Reverend George P. Polk either directly, or indirectly through REM, for their success in CPE.

So we celebrate and thank God for our Elder who has moved into the Ancestor Community.

We honor you, the Reverend George P. Polk, for supporting many of us as a

Passionate Personality

Humble Person

Spiritual Energy

Caring Pastor

Visionary Leader

Insightful Educator

Vocational Father, Grandfather, Mentor, Inspirer, Encourager!

Farewell on your journey Home. We will miss you. We will remember you. We will celebrate you. We will call upon you as an Ancestor and cherish your impact on our lives and on CPE. Farewell, Rev. George P. Polk, Farewell!!!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ADVOCATE HEALTH CARE

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Advocate Bethany Hospital • Chicago, IL
Advocate BroMenn Medical Center • Normal, IL
Advocate Christ Medical Center • Oak Lawn, IL
Advocate Condell Medical Center • Libertyville, IL
Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital • Downers Grove, IL
Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital • Barrington, IL
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center • Chicago, IL
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital • Park Ridge, IL
Advocate South Suburban Hospital • Hazel Crest, IL
Advocate Trinity Hospital • Chicago, IL