



Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

Media Contact:

Rachelle Chang
Office (808) 545-2740
info@samaritanhawaii.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing The Rev. Dr. George M. Clifford Pastoral Care Assistance Fund Mental Health Counseling for Clergy and Lay Ministers

September 1, 2022 – Honolulu, HI – Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i, a nonprofit mental health counseling center, is pleased to announce the establishment of The Rev. Dr. George M. Clifford Pastoral Care Assistance Fund. Named in honor of The Rev. Dr. George M. Clifford, this new fund will help clergy and lay ministers with limited financial resources to receive mental health counseling.

Many pastors believe that self-care is selfish, and may not take the time or have the financial resources to take care of their mental, emotional, and spiritual needs. The new Pastoral Care Assistance Fund will ensure that pastors and lay ministers receive the mental health care they need, regardless of their financial situation. It complements the Center’s existing Client Assistance Fund, which subsidizes mental health counseling for individuals, youth, couples, and families who are uninsured, underinsured, elderly, and low-income, regardless of their ability to pay.

The Fund is named in honor of The Rev. Dr. George M. Clifford, who served as President of Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii’s Board of Directors from 2018-2022. He is an Episcopal priest who served twenty-four years as an active duty U.S. Navy chaplain, retiring at end of 2005 with the rank of Captain. Assignments included duty at Marine Corps’ Officer Candidates School, the Naval Academy, the Naval Postgraduate School, the staff of the Chief of Chaplains, Pearl Harbor (twice), at sea, and two years in London on exchange with the British Royal Navy. In retirement, he has served as an interim and supply priest, coached/mentored clergy, taught at the Naval Postgraduate School as a Visiting Professor of Ethics and Public Policy, and volunteered as a mediator for the Mediation Center of the Pacific.

“The Rev. Dr. Clifford has truly been a blessing to the Center, and I am honored to have worked along-side him,” says The Rev. Dr. Bert Sumikawa, Interim President of the Board of Directors of Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i. “Under his leadership, the Center established the Jolene Gerell Memorial Endowment Fund, created a fully-funded three-month Operating Reserve, increased Board membership and diversity, and embodied the love and service of the Good Samaritan.”

Donations to The George M. Clifford Pastoral Care Assistance Fund are welcome at www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org/giving.

About Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i

Founded in 1989, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides professional and accessible mental health counseling for individuals, families, and communities in Hawai‘i, regardless of their ability to pay. The organization also participates in community outreach and events to provide mental health education, strengthen resilience, and help reduce the stigma of mental illness. For more information, call (808) 545-2740 or visit <http://www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org>.

###

Celebrating Over 30 Years of Service

1020 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96814 • Phone: (808) 545-2740 • Fax: (808) 545-2852
Website: www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org • Email: info@samaritanhawaii.org