

15th Consultation
European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy
Belgium, Blankenberge, 15-19 June 2018



PAPERS

Nurturing Spirituality in Healthcare Chaplaincy



**Writing spiritual biography as contribution to spiritual awareness
and taking position of spiritual caregivers**

Niecky van Amerongen, Jannet Delver & Wim Smeets

Radboud Universitair Medisch Centrum, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

'Methodical writing spiritual autobiography ' is a method developed at VU University Medical Centre in Amsterdam for spiritual care to patients in the growing outpatient clinics setting combined with an accredited post academic course for senior workers in the field of pastoral and spiritual care (Delver et al.). The training has been applied to students and recent graduates in spiritual care (Delver, Post, Smeets). We will present the didactic framework of the method for students, including the discovery of one's own worldview, which is combined with a philosophical, theological, or religious studies perspective. Through individual supervision then this is related to the application in the spiritual care.

The method is developed and set up to be suitable for the exploration and awareness of the personal spirituality, of classical religiosity as well as 'flexible spirituality and multiple belonging'. Integrated part of the training for students is an assessment. It prepares students and recent graduates for a testimony of their church belonging or a non-institutionally bound spiritual care.

The training contributes to the development of spirituality and to communication skills concerning spirituality with clients.

The significance of this training is described from the perspective of a participant experience. At the Department of Religious Studies of the University of Groningen the training is incorporated in the master program of Spiritual Care (Delver, Muthert).

Literature

Delver, J. & Smeets, W. (2015). Een leven schrijft zich niet vanzelf. *Psyche & Geloof*, 26, 4, 227-238.

Smeets, W. (2015). Supervisie en spirituele ontwikkeling. *Psyche & Geloof*, 26, 4, 247-261.