

Dignity at the End of Life: Spiritual, Medical, Ethical, and Legal Issues

Presenters

Spirituality of Dying

Rev. Diane Smith

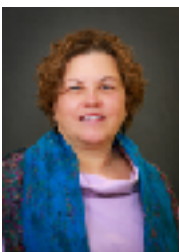
Director of Ministry Engagement, Angela Hospice



Diane Smith, an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has worked in ministry for over 40 years, holding a Master of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology. She is a board-certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. Currently, serves on the board of the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County, and is a member of the Equity Task Force of the Michigan Oncology Quality Consortium (MOQC). Diane has been a part of the Angela Hospice team since 2018, bringing with her nearly 20 years in spiritual care in the hospice setting.

Medical Issues

Merilynne Rush, MSHP, BSN



Merilynne Rush holds an MS in Hospice and Palliative Studies and owns [The Dying Year](#), offering End-of-life Doula training, mentoring and certification. She was the first President of the [National End-of-life Doula Alliance](#) (NEDA) and is vice-chair of the End-of-life Doula Advisory Council (NHPCO). Merilynne facilitates the [Ann Arbor Death Cafe](#) and is a Respecting Choices® 1st Steps Advance Care Planning Facilitator Instructor. [Doula research](#) by Merilynne.

Navigating the Ethical Issues of End of Life Care.

David Nantais - Ethicist



David Nantais is the Director of Mission Integration at Trinity Health Ann Arbor, Livingston and Chelsea hospitals, and adjunct instructor of philosophy and religious studies at University of Detroit Mercy. Nantais earned a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from University of Detroit Mercy, a masters in the subject from Iowa State University, a master's in philosophy with a concentration in Health Care Ethics from Loyola University Chicago, a master's in theological studies from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, and a Doctorate in Bioethics from Loyola University Chicago. He has published several articles focused on ethics and the intersection of popular culture and spirituality, and his first book, *Rock-a My Soul: An Invitation to Rock Your Religion* was published by Liturgical Press in 2011. Nantais lives in the city of Detroit with his wife, Carrie and two sons, Liam and Theo. He is an avid drummer and has played in rock bands for over thirty years.

Ask the Attorney!

Mark Lezotte - Attorney



Mark Lezotte is a shareholder practicing in Butzel Long's Detroit office. He has substantial experience in corporate, health care, exempt organization, and tax matters. Mark has conducted presentations on a number of topics involving health law, healthcare reform, informed consent in patient care and in clinical research, hospital-physician ventures, HIPAA and patient privacy provisions, advanced directives and healthcare power of attorney. Mark holds both a J.D. and B.B.A. degree from the University of Michigan. He is married to Patti Little, they have two adult children, and he has been a Gesu parishioner since 2000.