

A Brief Summary of the Response of the NC Board of Examiners of Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors following the meeting with the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee (2016 - present)

Following the meeting with the North Carolina Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee in 2016, the North Carolina State Board of Examiners for Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors (NCFBPPC) began an extensive self-study in order to address concerns raised by the APO committee. Board members were aware that reporting procedures and administrative responsibilities had changed significantly since the creation of the Board in the early 1990s. The self-study resulted in the following actions:

- (1) Board membership was evaluated, and steps were taken to appoint a full membership of new participants representing the diversity of Pastoral Counselors in North Carolina to the NCFBPPC Board
- (2) The Board reviewed the administrative requirements of the legislature and the State of North Carolina, confirmed compliance with these standards, and continues to be diligent in completing all necessary reporting and documentation in a timely manner
- (3) Completed a fiscal review and recommended that the North Carolina Association for Pastoral Counselors consider legislative action to increase the annual renewal fee
- (4) Administrative Rules were revised to correspond more closely to current standards of best practice in the mental health discipline, and current options to meet certification requirements that were not available when the Board was originally established
- (5) Administrative Rules and Procedures were reviewed, and the Executive Director revised the Internal Policy and Procedures Manual
- (6) The Board increased the number of opportunities for application and examination from once annually to twice annually (June and November)
- (7) The Board initiated conversations with institutions of higher learning in order to design curricula to meet requirements for certification
- (8) The Board appointed a committee to work with Board Attorney, Kenneth Haywood, to review Article 26 in order to determine if there are any standards or requirements that no longer apply in the current practice of behavioral health, and to revise the article to comply with current best practices. In addition, the committee endeavored to make changes to the article that would facilitate consolidation or merger with another mental health licensing board if necessary in the future. The proposed changes were presented to the North Carolina Association of Pastoral Counselors for their review and consideration. No further action has been taken, however, due to the global pandemic.