



## Comments from those who have invited Dr. Jacobs to provide a workshop for local clergy, chaplains, students, seminarians and congregants

At the end of several weeks' discussion of end of life issues at our church using Dr. Martha Jacob's "Clergy Guide to End of Life Issues", she led us in a superlative day-long workshop that took people ever deeper into their personal mixtures of anxiety, grief, and resistance into acceptance love and joy. The entire group then completed their own health care proxies, in an expression of gratitude and faith. Dr. Jacob's book is a must-read for both clergy and congregations. It gently leads us into the "valley of the shadow" where we all need to go with faithful intentionality.

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Gunn  
Pastor, United Church of Rockville Centre  
Rockville Centre, NY

From Banner Desert Medical Center & Cardon Children's Medical Center, Mesa, AZ

"I was impressed with her transparent sharing of her life experience and chaplaincy in the grief arena. It gave rise to a number of issues I had never considered before." Betty Jo McGee, Chaplain Resident

"She helps you understand the importance of calling death what it is – soft words and euphuisms really do not help anyone." Miriam Bacon, Chaplain Resident

"The workshop presented a tough topic no one wants to talk about in a gentle non-threatening way. Helping your family know what you want seems less frightening and do-able." Kimberly Murman, BCC Spiritual Care ACPE Sr. Manager

"Her expertise in the area is enhanced by her enthusiasm and passion for the topic." Mark Anderson, BCC Staff Chaplain

"She has an extraordinary patience in answering questions and bringing the group along." Jeffrey Matson, Chaplain Resident

We have had Dr. Martha Jacobs as a visiting teacher for the last several years in both our Foundations in Buddhist Contemplative Care Training and our CPE students. As a presenter and as a person, Martha is warm, engaging and deeply steeped in the material. Her contemplations on death lead our students into rich explorations into their inner lives and values, and helps to reframe how they are living their lives now

Rev. Koshin Paley Ellison, MFA, LMSW, ACPE  
Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director  
New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care

Martha has provided lectures and workshops for our local faith leaders and the community at large. These presentations have opened up conversations about end-of-life care and dying. Her very well attended talk for the community indicates that people are eager to begin these conversations. The local faith leaders also responded enthusiastically and as the Director of Pastoral Care, I am finding that the clergy are providing more compassionate care to patients.

Rev. Anne Kowalczyk  
Director of Pastoral Care  
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital  
New London, CT

Rev. Martha Jacobs' workshop on end of life issues was a unique combination of practical and spiritual discussions that were tremendously helpful to anyone at any stage of life. Rev. Jacobs led us to confront difficult questions--and to search together for the difficult answers. These issues are so much more easily avoided than faced. However, with Rev. Jacobs' experience and compassion, the necessity of dealing with end-of-life issues, for ourselves or others, becomes manageable--and enlightening.

Joanna Raleigh  
Pastoral Support Deacon  
Scarsdale Congregational Church  
Scarsdale, NY

We first heard Rev. Dr. Martha Jacobs give her seminar on end-of-life issues for a United Church of Christ Metropolitan Association-wide meeting. We were so very impressed with her in-depth knowledge of this often difficult subject matter that we invited her to repeat it for our local church members and friends. More than 30 folks from all ages joined in the discussion, and more importantly, the highly specific Q & A period that followed, over a two hour period. Any who have interest in knowing more about this important topic would benefit from participating in this presentation. As a result of the new awareness about this topic, we made sure to update our health care proxies and living wills before we embarked on a trip to Asia. Such updates, we learned, were even more important for residents of New York State, where the laws on this subject have recently changed. We have also realized this subject is important to people of any age, because one never knows when (or where) a critical medical issue might arise. Accordingly, we took copies of our new documents with us on our Asian trip, and will continue to carry them with us as we travel. We have also shared them with our medical proxies, of course.

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