



North American Hindu Chaplains Association
2025 Annual Conference
“Journeys into Hindu Spiritual Care”

Conference Program Day 1

Friday April 4, 2025

10:00 AM **Opening Prayer | Code of Ethics | Welcoming Remarks | Roadmap for the day**

10:45 AM **“The Least They Could Do For Us Is, Like, Notice Us”:** Hindu College Students and a Sense of Belonging on Campus

Gain insight into the college journeys of Hindu students enrolled at US college campuses based on findings from Dr. Schier’s doctoral dissertation project.

Speaker: Suzanne Schier, Ph.D.

Moderator: Dr. Vineet Chander

12:00 PM **Break for lunch | Feedback request**

1:30 PM **“Through the Eyes of a Chaplain...”**

Hear how Hindu chaplains are drawing on their creativity, training, and deep compassion towards translating Hindu theologies and sacred stories into tools for spiritual care.

Speakers:

Mr. Kula pradipa Das

Moderator: Dr. Vineet Chander

2:30 PM **“Our Turn”:** How Spiritual Care Students are Understanding, Imagining and Embodying Spiritual Care

Spiritual care and CPE students from Hindu and Sikh traditions will share reflections and writings inspired by course assignments and their work in the field. This session follows a “reverse-classroom” format offering ample opportunity for feedback and discussion. Please help us support these students who represent the future of dharmic spiritual care.

Speakers:

Ms. Kamaljit Brar

Ms. Nanda Subbarao

Ms. Sudha Bhat

Moderators: Ms. Bindu Gupta and Dr. Asha Shipman

3:30 PM **Spiritual Care Competencies: Institutional Expectations Towards Employment**

The journey towards gaining healthcare chaplaincy credentials can be confusing. Learn how chaplains of other minority faiths are navigating degree requirements, BCC equivalencies and what the professional expectations are from the perspective of hiring managers.

Speakers:

Rev. Christina Wright, Ph.D.

Moderator: Dr. Shama Mehta

4:30 PM **Break | Reminders, feedback request**

6:00 PM ***Dinner Presentation: The Importance of CPE - Building Competency and Compassion***

Bring your dinner and dessert plates to our virtual banquet hall as our speakers discuss an exciting new virtual CPE opportunity.

Speakers:

Ms. Rambhoru Brinkman, M.Div., BCC, ACPE Certified Educator.

Dr. Shama Mehta, ED, BCC, ACPE Certified Educator

Feedback Request | Reminders and Notes for Saturday's program

Goodnight and Thanks



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Conference Program Day 2

Saturday April 5, 2025

10:15 AM **Opening Prayer | Code of Ethics | Welcoming Remarks | Roadmap for the day**

10:45 AM **Journeys in Community and Volunteer Hindu Spiritual Care**

Hindu chaplains share their journeys into the realm of volunteer and community spiritual care. Presentations will address the chaplaincy training they pursued and how they conceive of spiritual care through the experiences they have encountered while serving diverse communities.

Speakers:

Ms. Bindu Lanka

Mr. Pradeep Solanki

Ms. Shashikala Dwarakanath

Moderators: Ms. Bindu Gupta, Ms. Priya Amaresh and Dr. Asha Shipman

12:00 PM **Break for lunch | Feedback request**

1:30 PM **Journeys through Board Certification with NAHCA endorsees**

NAHCA is pleased to be an endorsing body for Hindu candidates applying to become Board Certified Chaplains through the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC). Hear about this process and more from our endorsees.

Speakers:

Mr. Suren Pandya

Ms. Aarti Ahuja

Moderator: Dr. Shama Mehta

2:30 PM **Team Aid: We Rise to Help Others**

[Team Aid](#) is a national 501(c)3 offering emergency guidance and support for

foreign visitors to the US. Hear how this dynamic cadre of volunteers help coordinate funeral arrangements, repatriation and transportation of remains with local and national organizations and the Indian embassy.

Speaker: Mr. Mohan Nannapaneni

Moderator: Mr. Sanjay Mathur

3:30 PM **Nurturing our Own Spiritual Journeys: A Maha KumbhaMela Yatra**
Reflection

To stay grounded and inspired, spiritual caregivers must nurture their own sadhana. Join Duke Hindu Chaplain Priya Amaresh as she recounts her fascinating adventure to the Maha KumbhaMela this year. Experience her journey firsthand through captivating photos and videos and immerse yourself in the vibrant energy and profound spirituality of this extraordinary event.

Speaker: Ms. Priya Amaresh

Moderator: Dr. Asha Shipman

4:30 PM **Break | Feedback request**

4:45 PM **Ask Me Anything:** A Round Table with the NAHCA Board

5:15 PM **Closing Prayer and Gratitude**