

**The Rev. Gaea Thompson, M.Div.**

*Manager, Pastoral Care*

*UPMC Presbyterian/Montefiore Hospital*

*Diplomate Supervisor for CPE*

*College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy*

Born and raised in New York City, **Gaea Thompson** considers Pittsburgh her hometown for over 30 years. Initially drawn to the city to continue music studies at Carnegie Mellon, she completed Seminary at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA and has been in Healthcare Chaplaincy for over 25 years. Much of that time she served as Chaplain at UPMC Canterbury Place, and Director of Pastoral Care for Senior Communities 2008-20. Witnessing the sacrificial service of so many family members, residents to one another, and dedicated staff made an indelible impact on her approach to ministry.

When asked by colleagues how she can bear the multiple annual losses that come with serving in long-term care she often replies, "Love is always worth the risk...and I trust God is holding us in the end." She has benefited from hearing so many persons' life reviews. What is most precious to many is their faith and relationships with other people. She also observed that people's deepest wounds and regrets often came from hurtful situations with those closest to them. Resiliency to carry on often came from faith practices and emotional support. Gaea wove these observations into her Chaplaincy, and the teaching and mentoring of Seminary students.

Supported by the administration of Senior Communities, she trained to become a Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor with the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy. This integration of counseling skills with theology has formed the basis of her work within the community.

December 2020 began a new chapter for her within UPMC. She is presently serving as Manager of Pastoral Care for Presbyterian/Montefiore Hospital.

Gaea and her husband Phil Thompson enjoy being parents to their two young adult children and caring for their small dog. They often start their day early together, with good strong coffee and conversation.