

The Rev. Earl E. Shelp, Ph.D.
President
Interfaith CarePartners, Inc.

Dr. Shelp is a scholar in the disciplines of medical ethics, theological ethics, and pastoral theology. After being graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1976 (Doctor of Philosophy), Dr. Shelp taught medical ethics at Baylor College of Medicine and theology at the Institute of Religion in Houston, Texas. He was Visiting Professor in the Department of Religion at Dartmouth College (1985 and 1989). In 1988, he co-founded and began service as President of Interfaith CarePartners, which received, in addition to seven other national awards for program excellence and record of service, a President's Service Award in 1998. The President's Service Award, sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, is described as "The most prestigious award ever given for volunteer community service." With his colleague Dr. Ron Sunderland, Dr. Shelp created the Care Team model of congregation-based volunteer caregiving in 1985. From 1986 to June 2009, Care Team members gave 1.75 million hours of volunteer service in the program.

He is the author of seven books and editor of sixteen books on ethics, medical ethics, and pastoral theology. He edited two book series: *Theology and Medicine* (Kluwer Academic Publishers) and *Pastoral Ministry Series* (Pilgrim Press). Dr. Shelp also is author of over thirty articles published in scholarly journals such as New England Journal of Medicine, Archives of Internal Medicine, Journal of Family Practice, Journal of Philosophy and Medicine, Hastings Center Report, Journal of Medical Ethics, Social Science and Medicine, Journal of Pastoral Care, American Journal of Public Health, and Christian Century.

Dr. Shelp is a member of the Executive Committee of the Delegate Council Class of 2006 – 2012, National Interfaith Coalition on Aging of the National Council on the Aging, Washington, DC. He was a member of the Governing Council Class of 2006 – 2009 of the Forum on Religion and Spirituality and the Purposeful Lives Advisory Committee of the Civic Engagement Program of the American Society on Aging.

From 1985-1992, he concentrated on the challenges to religion, ethics, medicine, and public policy occasioned by the HIV epidemic. In addition to writing and speaking, he served on the National Academy of Science panel on Monitoring the Impact of AIDS on American Society (1989-1991) and was a member (1987-1999) of the AIDS Vaccine Trials Data and Safety Monitoring Board for the National Institutes of Health. Since 1992, Dr. Shelp has focused on the development of the Care Team model of caregiving. The Care Team concept and model of ministry was first applied to people with HIV/AIDS in 1985, adapted in 1992 to meet the needs of Alzheimer's-affected families, expanded in 1994 to assist the frail elderly who live alone and have special needs that can be met by trained and supervised lay people, and revised to serve the special needs of severely impaired children and parent caregivers in 2000. The term Care Team and the basic methodology of shared congregation-based volunteer caregiving has been replicated broadly by faith communities and organizations nationally based on publications and presentations by Dr. Shelp and Dr. Sunderland.

Dr. Shelp is a member of the Society of Christian Ethics and was listed in Who's Who in Religion. In 1992, he received at a Kennedy Center gala an America's Award, described as a Nobel Prize for goodness, sponsored by The Positive Thinking Foundation founded by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. In 1999, he was a final judge of nominees for the 1999 President's Service Awards.