

CHRISTOPHER A. COLE

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EXECUTIVE LEADER • PASTOR • CHAPLAIN

Visionary nonprofit executive, ordained ministry candidate, hospital chaplain, and community leader with more than 30 years of experience leading mission-driven organizations, developing innovative programs, raising millions of dollars in philanthropic support, and building strategic partnerships that improve lives.

Recognized for combining compassionate leadership with strong organizational management, financial stewardship, pastoral care, and public advocacy. Extensive experience leading organizational growth, supervising multidisciplinary teams, preaching, teaching, fundraising, strategic planning, crisis management, and serving vulnerable communities.

Core Competencies

Leadership	Ministry	Operations	Communication
Executive Leadership	Preaching & Worship	Budget Management	Public Speaking
Strategic Planning	Pastoral Care	Fundraising	Media Relations
Board Governance	Clinical Chaplaincy	Program Development	Advocacy
Program Development	Grief Support	Grant Writing and Management	Coalition Building

Professional Experience

APNH: A Place to Nourish Your Health

Executive Director

New Haven, Connecticut

May 2008 – Present

Lead one of Connecticut's first and oldest community health organizations serving individuals affected by HIV, chronic illness, food insecurity, behavioral health needs, and health disparities.

Responsible for overall strategic leadership of an approximately \$3 million nonprofit organization, overseeing operations, finance, fundraising, community partnerships, advocacy, compliance, and organizational growth.

Selected Accomplishments

- Lead a \$3M nonprofit serving individuals affected by HIV, behavioral health challenges, food insecurity, and chronic illness.
 - Direct strategic planning, finance, fundraising, operations, compliance, and board governance.
 - Secure public and private funding through grants, major gifts, corporate partnerships, and events.
 - Expanded organizational services to meet evolving community health needs.
 - Serve as organizational spokesperson and advocate at local, state, and national levels.
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Ministry Experience

Griffin Hospital

Per-Diem Chaplain (2025–Present) • Clinical Pastoral Education (2024–2025)

Provide spiritual care in emergency, inpatient, ICU, and end-of-life settings, offering crisis intervention, grief support, family support, spiritual assessment, presence and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Pastoral Leadership

South Britain Congregational Church (UCC)

Student Minister

South Britain, CT

September 2025- June 2026

Completed supervised field placement, providing preaching, worship leadership, pastoral care, congregational visitation, Bible studies, and church leadership.

Various United Church of Christ Congregations

2023 – Present

Provided sabbatical pastoral leadership for Middlebury Congregational Church (July–September 2023) and continue to serve as a pulpit supply pastor throughout Connecticut, leading worship, preaching, providing pastoral care, officiating funerals and special services, and supporting congregations.

Previous Executive Leadership

- **Director**, AIDS/LifeCycle — Led one of the nation's largest endurance fundraising events, raising more than \$35 million.
 - **Associate Director of Development**, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence -- Led western region fundraising strategy and major donor development.
 - **Managing Director**, MusiCares Foundation -- Directed foundation operations, fundraising, strategic planning, and capital campaign initiatives.
 - **Vice President**, Pallotta TeamWorks -- Led national AIDS Ride operations, fundraising, sponsorships, logistics, and executive leadership.
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Education & Certifications

- Pathways Theological Education – Ministry Preparation Program (2026)
 - Clinical Pastoral Education – Griffin Hospital (2025)
 - Certified Grief Educator (2026)
 - B.S., Cornell University
 - Certified Grief Educator
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Professional & Community Leadership & Board Service

- **Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (Yale University)** — Executive Committee; Community Advisory Board
- **New Haven/Fairfield County Ryan White Planning Council** – Co-chair
- **Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium** – Member
- **State of Connecticut LGBTQ+ Justice & Opportunity Network** -- Member
- **Dining Out For Life International** — Former Board Member; Sponsorship & Marketing Committee Chair
- **Association of Nutritional Services Agencies (ANSA)** – Former Board Member
- **Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ** – Annual Meeting Planning Committee Chair
- **First Congregational Church of Watertown, CT** – Pastoral Relations Committee Chair (2025-present); Senior Deacon (2019-2025); Deacon (2018-2019); Open & Affirming Committee Chair (2019 – 2021); Standing Committee Member (2019-present)
- **United Church of Christ General Synod** – Committee Chair (2025)
- **Faiths United to Save Democracy** – Poll Chaplain