ABC Organization[[1]](#footnote-1) [[2]](#footnote-2)

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The ABC Organization supports professionals who utilize spiritual wisdom in their professional practice. ABCO offers continuing education and certification, a community for professional formation and development, and support for research. ABCO includes pastoral counselors, professional psychotherapists, social workers, life coaches, ministers, spiritual directors, nurses, physicians, public health workers, students, and others.

ABCO offers certification programs[[3]](#footnote-3) in:

* Spiritually-Integrated Psychotherapy
* Pastoral Counseling
* Pastoral Care
* Spiritually-Integrated Healthcare Practice
* Spiritually-Integrated Organizational Leadership.

ABCO’s educational programs teach professionals to work respectfully within the belief- and value-systems of those they serve, while also drawing on the professional’s own belief- and value-systems to understand themselves, those they serve, and works of healing and transformation.

Additionally, ABCO is a community of formation and support. We are not simply a continuing education organization. We are a community that cares for one another, that invests in one another, and that helps one another grow as instruments of healing. We help young-in-the-field professionals grow in wisdom and skill. We help experienced professionals keep learning and growing across their professional lifetime. We relate to one another as colleagues and friends rather than as competitors and rivals.

We believe that works of healing happen most wholly when practiced by those who are deeply engaged in a spiritual tradition or faith community. We value a bio-psycho-social-spiritual approach to wellness and care. We value learning as much as we can from science, psychotherapy theory, social theory, and the arts. We seek a humble posture in relation to others, so that everyone, at all times, might be our teacher. We value diversity in many forms: spirituality, gender, race, sexual identity, socio-economic status, political affiliation, professional practice, and more. We value gathering regularly in a community of practice that is trying to learn and work effectively and responsibly.

ABCO is an outreach of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors Southeast Region, where the values and practices of ABCO were grown and seasoned over a 50-year history. We recognize the large number of professionals from many fields who share these values, want to learn and grow in these practices, and desire a professional community that will support them across their professional lifetime. We welcome all who are looking for such a professional home to join us.

ABCO

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1. This is the September 2017 of an evolving document. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ABCO is a placeholder name. We will conduct a branding study to choose the actual name. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. These are listed as examples of possible certification tracks. We have currently developed a curriculum for the Spiritually-Integrated Psychotherapy certification. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)