

## Registration Form

To register, complete the registration form below and mail, fax or e-mail along with the full payment (see payment options below) to:

Continuing Education and Professional Development  
Grand Rapids Community College  
143 Bostwick Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: (616) 234-3400  
Fax: (616) 234-4952  
E-mail: [continuingeducation@gbcc.edu](mailto:continuingeducation@gbcc.edu)

Name		
Home Address		
City	State	Zip
Business Phone	Home Phone	
Employer		
Title		
Department		
Date of Birth		
Email Address		

### Registration Fee (check one):

- \$50 Conference fee  
 \$80 Conference fee **including** 7.1 Continuing Education Contact Hours

### Method of Payment (check one):

- Visa    Mastercard  
 Check (payable to Grand Rapids Community College)

Account Number
Exp Date
Signature
Cardholder's Name

## Registration

Registration fee includes lunch, refreshments, a syllabus, and a copy of the Greater Grand Rapids Grief and Loss Directory. Register early as seating will be limited.

### Registration Deadline:

Registration and fee must be received by **Friday, February 25, 2006**. A confirmation e-mail/letter will be sent upon receipt. Cancellations must be received one week before the conference. A \$15 processing fee will be charged for any cancellation.

### Continuing Education Credit

This conference has been reviewed by the Grand Rapids Community College Nursing Programs, which is a program approved by the Michigan Board of Nursing under Administrative Rule R338.10602(g). Participants will be awarded a total of 7.1 Continuing Education Contact Hours for attending the entire program.

# Disease, Death and Dying:

Understanding End of Life Issues from a Cultural Perspective

Friday, March 10, 2006



A conference sponsored by Greater Grand Rapids End of Life Coalition

Layout and design courtesy of Vision4design, Wyoming, MI  
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A conference with  
**Dr. Gottfried Oosterwal**  
sponsored by Greater Grand Rapids  
End of Life Coalition

**Friday, March 10, 2006,  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Held At:  
**Grand Rapids Community College**  
Applied Technology Center  
151 Fountain Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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More than one in three patients in hospitals and clinics come from cultures which differ greatly from those of their caregivers. Patients arrive with very different expectations and needs, views of the human body and illness, and attitudes toward pain. They also differ in religious and cultural beliefs that may affect their concept of illness, death, dying, grief, and loss.

Health care professionals come in contact with patients from other cultures daily. Research shows it is possible to develop the necessary skills for communicating across cultural and religious boundaries. As caregivers, it is vital that we know how to communicate with patients and their families.

### **Conference Mission**

It is essential for caregivers to understand different perspectives, the role of family, and the meaning of rituals as they help patients make treatment decisions, deal with life losses, and face death and dying. This conference will provide information on how the caregiver can adjust healthcare to the patient's own culture. The attendee will learn ways in which people from different cultures may relate to disease, dying,

and death; skills needed in communicating with people from different cultures; and information about how various cultures cope with illness and loss.

### **Conference Objectives**

The attendee will be able to:

- Describe cultural differences which affect professional interactions with patients and co-workers.
- Develop skills to enhance communications with people of different cultures.
- List ways in which people of other cultures view death and dying and cope with their grief and loss.



### **Who Should Attend**

Physicians, nurses, hospice workers, social workers, therapists, hospital chaplains, clergy, funeral directors, and any other professionals who interact with individuals or groups from various cultures.

### **Conference Schedule**

7:30-8:00 am	Registration
8:00-8:15 am	Welcome
8:15-10:00 am	"Culture, Illness and Health"
10-10:30 am	Break and Book Signing
10:30-Noon	"Communicating Across Cultural Boundaries"
Noon-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:30 pm	Death and Dying: A Cultural Panel
2:30-2:45 pm	Break
2:45-3:55 pm	"Death and Dying: A Cross-Cultural Perspective"
4:00 pm	Evaluations Conference Faculty

### **Gottfried Oosterwal, Ph.D., Litt. D.,**

is the Director of the Center for Intercultural Relations, based in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is currently Professor of Medical Anthropology at Loma Linda University and a Professor of Multi-Cultural Education at Western Michigan University. Dr. Oosterwal is a consultant to medical associations, hospitals, medical schools, nursing associations, and numerous international business organizations. He has consulted with governments in New Guinea, Australia, Zimbabwe, the Netherlands, South Africa, the Philippines, Indonesia, Italy, Trinidad, Tobago, and Namibia. He has taught at the University of the Philippines, the University of Hamburg (Germany), the University of Utrecht (Netherlands), and Andrews University. His degrees include Medical Anthropology, Philosophy and Theology, and International Health.

Dr. Oosterwal lived and worked in Indonesia, New Guinea, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Europe. He has published eleven books and speaks seven languages.

