Chuck had six months of chemotherapy. In the process of cancer treatment, he was invited to join the PORTAL Patient Engagement Council.

Subsequently, Chuck has gained a new appreciation of cancer care and research. He has become an ambassador of sorts, representing PORTAL at a national patient advocate meeting convened by PCORI. On a more local level, he has also enjoyed sharing the benefits of patient-centered outcomes research and PORTAL’s innovative approach to partnering with patients in all aspects of the research process.

In addition to his involvement in the PORTAL Patient Advisory Council, Chuck also was selected to be a patient partner serving on the stakeholder advisory board for the PCORI Home Based Palliative Care Project initiated in 2018, also referred to as the HomePal Study. This project is an effort of Kaiser Permanente of Northern and Southern California to study the effectiveness of a tech-enhanced methods of delivering home based palliative care (HBPC).

Chuck is excited to be involved in this innovative and future-oriented effort for delivery of patient-centered end of life care to determine its effectiveness.

Chuck earned his Master of Divinity degree (MDiv) from a Lutheran seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and served parishes in Minnesota and in Wisconsin. He also served interim calls (temporary calls) at eight churches in the Minneapolis area before taking a role as visitation pastor at a downtown church. He retired in April 2015. From his work and life, Chuck has deep experience in spiritual support for those with life-threatening conditions and community-based care giving. He found patient advocacy a natural fit with what has been his life of relating to people in crisis and their concerns. He feels he is “well-tuned to the human condition.”

Chuck advises others with cancer to ask a lot of questions, do as much research as possible, and share your story with other cancer patients.