



Houston Department of  
Health and Human Services



**The Reverend Phillip C. Cato**  
Bioethicist and Pandemic and Disaster Planner

Speaker Biography

Phillip Cato received his Bachelors of Arts degree in English from Duke University in 1956. He received his M.Div. from The Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1959. The recipient of a fellowship from the American Association of Theological Schools, he studied independently with Dr. Joseph Francis Fletcher in the fields of theology and ethics, with field work at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. After ordination he did graduate work in historical and philosophical theology at Duke University and at The University of the South and in 1977 received a Ph.D. in 19th Century Social and Intellectual History from Emory University where he studied evolutionary theory as an intellectual model in the last part of the 19th century. He has served in parish ministry in North Carolina, Georgia, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, and as university chaplain and instructor at North Carolina State University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and has taught courses at St. Mary's Junior College, the Candler School of Theology, George Mason University, and the George Meany Center for Labor Studies.

For a number of years Rev. Cato has conducted workshops in moral reasoning and professional ethics for the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps, the clergy of the United Methodist Church, and the Episcopal Church. He is a retired Naval Reserve Chaplain with the rank of Captain. Currently he serves on several Data and Safety Monitoring Boards and Advisory Committees, overseeing human trials in the fields of human reproduction and maternal and fetal health for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and human trials addressing problems of obesity for the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute at the National Institutes of Health. He does consulting work with judicatories, parishes, businesses, and clergy in professional ethics, pandemic flu, and disaster planning.