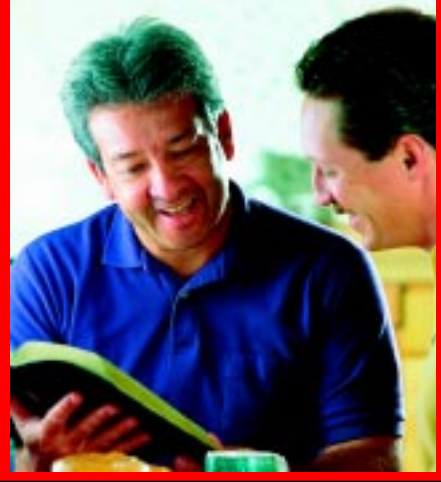


Becoming an Institutional or Community Service CHAPLAIN with the



In a society where people are increasingly suspect of religious personnel and are reluctant to enter a church, chaplaincy ministries offer unique opportunities to share Christ with people when those people are most aware of their spiritual needs. Chaplaincy is an extension of the local church, reaching into health care facilities, corporations, prisons, public safety agencies, and athletic teams. Very few other ministries provide pastors such a natural and challenging exposure to people in their communities who need to hear the gospel.

Institutional Chaplaincy

Institutional chaplains serve in a variety of institutions and organizations, either in full-time employment or part-time chaplaincy in conjunction with pastoral ministry. Each agency or jurisdiction has its own particular qualifications for hiring chaplains. All inquiries for employment should be made to the particular business or agency.

Correctional facilities are operated by federal, state, county, and local agencies as well as by private corporations. They include men's, women's, and youth facilities. Many of these agencies recognize the value of having chaplains to provide Biblical or moral instruction and counseling, to aid those who are overcoming alcohol and substance abuse, and to help inmates readjust to society after their release. Chaplains also often have opportunities to minister to the needs of the staff.

Corporations hire chaplains to minister to the employees and families of their companies. Some corporate chaplains are hired by chaplaincy ministry organizations that have contracts with companies to provide chaplaincy services.

Health care chaplains are trained to serve in every kind of hospital in environments of sickness, pain, birth, and death. The health care chaplains' ministries include providing pastoral care for patients and their families during bedside visits, providing pastoral care and counseling for staff, conducting workshops for hospital staff and local pastors, and referring patients to local churches. Health care facilities generally require CPE training of ministers applying for chaplaincy positions.

Community Service Chaplaincy

Chaplains serving with law enforcement agencies, fire departments, emergency service agencies, and athletic teams minister to the staff of the agencies as well as to the people served in the communities. Many chaplains in this area serve as volunteer chaplains. Prisons and hospitals also often welcome volunteer chaplains.

Each of these specialized chaplaincy ministries provides opportunities to demonstrate living Christianity to individuals and families who would normally not seek out a church.

What Is Endorsement?

Endorsement is a professional credential that affirms to an employer that a chaplain has met the basic requirements of the GARBC to provide ministry in a specialized setting. It represents a level of mutual accountability and support between the chaplain and the GARBC and a standard of excellence to the using agency. Endorsement has always been required for military chaplaincy; however, now it is required by an increasing number of civilian agencies as a step toward achieving higher levels of professional certification.

How Do I Become Endorsed?

- You must be a born again, active member of a church in fellowship with the GARBC.
- You must be in full agreement with the doctrinal statement of the GARBC.
- You must submit an application, along with a copy of your ordination certificate, to the Chaplaincy Commission.

Endorsement for Laypeople

Some institutional and community service chaplaincy ministries do not require ordination. Laymen and laywomen who evidence a growing understanding of Scripture and an ability to minister to the people within the particular institution are encouraged to work with their pastor to seek GARBC endorsement. All endorsement requirements must be met, except that in lieu of ordination, applicants should request a commissioning service by their church and a letter from their pastor affirming their demonstrated fitness for this particular chaplaincy position. (This process will need to be repeated if the applicant moves to a different church.)

For more information on institutional or community service chaplaincy, contact:

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