

DENOMINATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Institutional Chaplaincy



THE MINISTRY OF CHAPLAINCY

Many persons are finding ministry as an institutional chaplain to be very fulfilling. Chaplains are ministers who perform pastoral tasks in specialized settings. They must love people and be capable of providing specialized ministry in a wide variety of settings, often with non-traditional methods within religiously pluralistic environments. The Wesleyan Church recognizes the value of this ministry and provides for the endorsement of qualified persons through its Committee on Chaplains.

Those who seek to be appointed as institutional chaplains must receive ecclesiastical endorsement. Endorsement is an affirmation by the Church that a person is or will be performing ministry in behalf of the Church and has presented evidence of having the special education, experience, and skills necessary for that specialized ministry.

Wesleyans are currently serving as chaplains in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Civil Air Patrol, Veterans' Administration, hospitals, health care centers, police forces, penal institutions, fire departments, and a variety of other institutional settings.

THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET

To receive denominational endorsement, institutional chaplain applicants must satisfy the following conditions and procedures:

1. Applicant must be an ordained minister in good standing in a district of The Wesleyan Church.
2. Applicant must have completed specialized training for the type of ministry for which endorsement is sought, which will include at least one year of supervised clinical training or comparable professional experience. In addition, there may be requirements established by specific institutions which must be met before endorsement can be granted.
3. Application for Denominational Certification, Statement of Record, at least three confidential evaluations must be satisfactorily completed, showing compliance with the requirements of the service or agency in which he/she hopes to serve, and supplying all recommendations required by the Committee on Chaplains.
4. Applicant must be interviewed personally by the executive secretary or authorized representative and subsequently be recommended to the Committee on Chaplains.
5. Applicant must be approved by a vote of at least four members of the Committee on Chaplains.