

Federal Bureau of Prisons Chaplaincy Endorsement Process

Federal prison chaplains provide a comprehensive program of spiritual welfare and religious guidance for inmates in a Federal correctional setting. They offer pastoral care, worship services, and support to those incarcerated. Each jurisdiction has particular qualifications for hiring chaplains.

Presbyterian ministers seeking to serve the Federal Bureau of Prisons must:

- Possess an M.Div. degree
- Be an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament with at least two years of post-ordination pastoral experience
- Be in good standing with their Presbyteries
- Maintain personal conduct above reproach
- Be between 21 and 37 years old for an initial appointment. The Department of Justice may grant an age waiver under certain circumstances
- Complete an application and gain endorsement with the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies

To begin the endorsement process, the candidate must connect with their Presbytery EP/GP and the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies staff at info@presfedchap.org. The process will include the following:

- **Application (to include):**
 - Brief Life Sketch
 - Motivation Statement
 - College and Seminary Transcripts
 - Denominational Resume
 - Spouse Concurrence (Military)
 - Photograph (jpeg)
 - Sermon (Digital)
 - Presbytery contact for presbytery approval (name, email, and phone number)'
- **Reference Check**
 - The PFC will send out the required reference forms to those listed in your application.
- **Presbytery Approval Form**
 - The PFC will send the required form to your presbytery
 - Candidates will need to dialogue with their EP/GP or Stated Clerk and the required committee (i.e., COM or CPM)
- **Background Check** (Source: Protect My Ministry)
- **Interview** (Normally by Zoom)
- **Endorsement Form** (Completed by the PFC)
 - DD 2088 (Military)
 - BP-A1119 (FBOP)
 - VA Form 10-253 (VA)

The Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies application packet can be found on our website presfedchap.org.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons information can be found at bop.gov/jobs/positions/index.jsp?p=Chaplain