

Department of Veteran's Affairs Chaplaincy (VA) Endorsement Process

The VA Chaplaincy provides complete religious ministry to veteran patients and their families, following their needs and desires. These chaplains address patients' religious, spiritual, moral, and ethical problems. They minister to newly admitted, pre-and post-operative patients and those critically ill. Chaplains perform spiritual assessments and clinical pastoral care that are carefully integrated into the holistic care provided by interdisciplinary treatment teams.

Presbyterian ministers seeking to serve the VA 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
- Complete a minimum of 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and have Board Certification or be able to attain Board Certification within 2 years of hiring
- 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 VA Information can be found at va.gov/chaplain/Employment_Information_and_Resources.asp