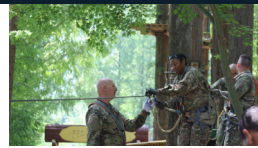




PENTECOSTAL  
CHURCH OF GOD

# CHAPLAINS COMMISSION 2.0



# **PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD**

## **CHAPLAIN HANDBOOK**

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# HISTORY



The Pentecostal Church of God (PCG) had its first chaplain endorsed to Active Duty in the 1970's under the umbrella of the NAE (National Association of Evangelicals). The Military Ministries were overseen by the PCG General Secretary Dr. Ronald Minor. Major John Ward served with distinction in the Air Force, and was soon followed by half a dozen other chaplains in the Army, Navy and National Guard.

By 1995, the PCG created its own Chaplains Commission with retired Air Force Colonel Lemuel M. Boyles appointed as the first Endorser. He led ministries during the U.S. invasion of Grenada - going on to Honolulu to lead all Air Force chaplains in the Pacific - and remained as our Endorser until his death in 2017. He led the largest chaplaincy expansion in PCG history, inspired by an astute spiritual wife Rev. Agnes Boyles - herself a renowned Cardiac Nurse.



Dr. George W. Linzey, the youngest Navy Chaplain ever selected to the rank of Captain, built the world's largest military chapel program at Naval Training Center San Diego, with 7,400 sailors in weekly volunteer attendance. While on Active Duty in 1997 he obtained permission from six seminaries to grant a 25% seminary tuition discount to any PCG student enrolled. This included the Assemblies of God Seminary, Church

of God in Christ, Church of God Cleveland Tennessee, Fuller Seminary, Regent University, and Southern California Seminary. Additional seminaries that provide training for our chaplains are Oral Roberts, Wesleyan Seminary, Bethel, George Fox, Liberty, Azusa, Howard, and Hampton University. Dr. Linzey served as the PCG Chaplain Endorser from 2017 until 2020.

Bishop M David Reynolds, USAF Chaplain, Colonel (ret) and his wife Hope began the work of building the PCG Chaplains Commission 2.0. With a mandate from the Presiding PCG Bishop Wayman Ming and the General Board, Chaplain Reynolds brought ALL PCG Chaplains, both civilian and DoD, under one division. David and Hope focused on recruitment, retention, Pastoral care and continuing education. Having been awarded the Legion of Merit for his distinguished service at PACAF and the Joint Chaplain's office in Washington, DC as well as decades of PCG Pastoral ministry Bishop Reynolds and Hope brought the skill set needed to carry the PCG Chaplains Commission 2.0 into God's unfolding future!



From 2001 - 2021 the PCG Chaplaincy grew from 6 chaplains to 70+ Hospital, Hospice, VA, DOC, Law Enforcement, Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve - including dozens of Seminarians and prospective chaplains in the pipeline. Our chaplains represent more than 1 million Pentecostal and Independent Charismatic constituents.





## MISSION STATEMENT

God has One Mission, the salvation of the lost and One Movement, the Church of Jesus Christ to accomplish His purposes. He calls Chaplains to extend the ministry of the Church to persons in institutional and specialized settings such as the Veterans Administration, prisons, health care, Hospice, military, campus/university, industry, law enforcement, fire and EMS. The Chaplains Commission coordinates that ministry for the PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD.

## VISION STATEMENT

- Honor God by: promoting, recruiting, evaluating, endorsing and training the most qualified chaplaincy candidates
- Create a team of qualified and connected PCG chaplains by liaising between, the PCG General Bishop, the PCG General Board, PCG Districts, PCG churches, employers, and Government Agencies
- Assist individuals as they explore and assess their potential for chaplaincy and guide PCG candidates through the endorsement process
- Provide pastoral care and continuing professional educational training for PCG Chaplains
- Support organizations such as NCMAF, NAE, ECVAC, AFCB and ICPC.

A 2nd Century PCG is a worldwide Movement where men & women Chaplain 'Executives' are seen as of equal value in the sight of God and the PCG, regardless of that Chaplain's race, gender or culture. The 2nd Century PCG knows that "...the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.... men and women shall be filled with the Spirit..."; and the 2nd century will be stronger than the First, because BOTH men and women are deemed worthy of putting their hands to the plow - acceptable for any and all available tasks, ministries, and positions.

# CHAPLAIN ENDORSER

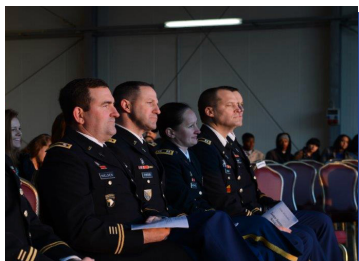
All Chaplains have an “Endorser” - A Director from the denomination who prepares Chaplain files to include college/seminary transcripts, License & Ordination documents, security background checks, personal references/requirements, and various records required by the government. When the Endorser observes a Candidate is ready to assume duties as a chaplain, an Endorsement is submitted to the institution the Candidate is requesting Orders (placement). In the military it is called the 2088 Form. The 2088 briefly lists the strengths and attributes the Endorser thinks will best serve a particular institution. Seminary graduates want the Endorser to ensure they have the best advantage to put their training and seminary studies to work.

The Endorser encourages the Student / Chaplain, and is a resource when the Chaplain has questions or is at a crossroad in ministry. The Endorser occasionally visits chaplains at their base, Hospital or Prison and pays a call upon the Chaplain’s Supervisor or Commanding Officer, if requested. Many times, an Endorser’s visit is unofficial, and no formal call upon a CO is planned. When a Chaplain encounters difficulty, the Endorser may be of most help - either in Counsel, requested communication with Superiors, or simple brainstorming. “In the counsel of many elders is found wisdom;” and the wise Chaplain will seek advice when appropriate.

In short: The Chaplain’s Endorser is a valuable help in Preparing the Chaplain for ministry; Liaising between Chaplain and Denomination; Visiting the Chaplain on-site; Celebrating the Chaplain during Conventions, Conferences & Training; and Highlighting Chaplain Ministries in denominational magazines/news articles.



Many Endorsers are former Chaplains, and have helpful connections/resources that can be of value. Stay close to your Endorser. They may have input in Scholarships, Continuing Education opportunities, Marriage & family situations, post Active-Duty ministry options, Personal references, Pastoral/Pulpit Vacancies, and can liaise between you and your Chief of Chaplains when appropriate.



The Endorser leads a “Chaplain Commission” of clergy who convene to discuss the denomination’s Chaplain Budget, plan Training, Conventions, Ordination Ceremonies (upon request), and Retreats for the occasional fellowship of all Chaplains in the denomination.

Without a seminary of our own, we recruit the finest Pentecostal graduates from seminaries across the country - enriching our Movement and its worldwide effect for the Kingdom. Because God has arranged for both genders to be His Ministers, we are developing a PCG Chaplaincy where soon one-third of our chaplains will be women. They serve as ‘Executives’ in the Defense Department, VA, Hospital/Hospice and various other institutions as the Holy Spirit places them in the latter 20th Century. A wise 2nd Century PCG will continue to nurture and harness such Executive Expertise for its own growth.

## TITHES / OFFERINGS

The PCG Chaplaincy is supported by the tithes & offerings of its Chaplains. The PCG Constitution and by-laws require every minister to tithe to the District which Ordained them. As Chaplains, your District is the Chaplains Commission. Tithes may be paid by USPS or online at [pcg.org](http://pcg.org). In addition, a monthly Minister’s Fee is assessed and payable to the IMC. If a minister/chaplain falls two months in arrears the IMC may drop the minister’s credentials and the Chaplain’s endorsement will be in jeopardy. Therefore, every Chaplain in good standing with

the Chaplains Commission will have their monthly Ministers Fee paid by the Commission.

Chaplain Tithes & Offerings support the following:

- An Endorser, Associate Endorser, & Administrative Assistant;
- Travel to Military Bases, Ceremonial functions, Endorsers' Conference & General board Meetings;
- Chaplains' attendance at Biennial Church Conventions;
- Chaplains' attendance at PCG Training Conference;
- All Chaplains' monthly Credential Fees to the denomination;
- Seminary Scholarship Program for future Chaplains;
- Chaplain banquets & Award Ceremonies;
- The "Fair Share" costs to the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces, VA, Hospital, & Prison Associations supporting Institutional Chaplaincies;
- Administration of Licensing & Ordaining Seminarrians / Graduates;
- Chaplain participation in PCG 1M1M, Benevolence & Foreign Missions;
- Office Supplies, Postage, Utilities, Insurance, printing
- Reimbursement for Services / Resources provided Chaplain and their Dependents.

## SEMINARIANS

So, you're in seminary and you believe you are called to Chaplain Ministry. First and most importantly, affirm your calling because this ministry is not for the weak in mind, body, or spirit. Second, keep up on your studies and learn what you can about Christian Counseling. If offered, add CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) to your learning contract.

Hopefully, you are already part of a Pentecostal Church of God. If you haven't yet, kindly connect with a local PCG Bishop, Pastor or chaplain so that you can develop pastoral skills and experiences that will enrich the ministry you enter, upon completion of seminary: Being involved with a local church - even pastoring one prior to accession into the Chaplaincy - is usually required. Regardless of the direction you go, in the PCG we feel that your true potential comes through quality mentoring and coaching.

***If you are not a Licensed or Ordained Minister with the PCG, now is the time to get started!***



There are Three Steps that could take two to five years for completion depending on previously acquired studies or experience. The PCG minister's credentials are provided successively as Exhorter, License, and Ordination. License and Ordination Series may be done on line at [pcg.org](http://pcg.org) or through distance learning with hard copy books and manual.

Your PCG Pastor or Bishop can assist you in the process that includes an Application and appropriate supplemental Forms. The Application differs depending on your circumstances.

Also, you can communicate directly with the PCG Chaplain Endorser in the Credential Application process. Previous Applicants should submit an Application for Reinstatement or Application for Promotion. Expect some processing fees initially, and some additional costs for materials within each step along the way.

This may seem like a lot to do simultaneously with other studies, so learning to manage your time will be a good exercise. Requirements don't slowdown in the Chaplaincy; and the PCG does not take lightly



its responsibility to equip and train its ministers for the work of the Gospel. As an Exhorter, Licensed, or Ordained Minister, you can work alongside your local pastor and gain valuable experience and qualification for work in the Chaplaincy. More details can be found at [pcg.org](http://pcg.org) or [wearepcg.org](http://wearepcg.org).

Seminarians having completed at minimum, their Exhorter program with the PCG, one year of their Master of Divinity (or related degree in the field of Religion), having entered a Chaplain Candidate Program, and signed a letter of commitment to the PCG Chaplain Commission, may qualify for a Scholarship each semester while maintaining a 3.0 grade point average. A Scholarship Application and Statement of Commitment are available from the PCG Endorser's Office.

## SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE INSTITUTIONAL SETTING

Institutional chaplains perform or provide support for all people under their care. As a representative of their denomination, no chaplain is required to perform religious rites, sacraments, or ceremonies that are contrary to their conscience or the teaching of their religious body. Having said that, every chaplain is responsible for ensuring the protection of the First Amendment rights (i.e., free practice of religion) of those under their care.



In practical terms, this means that although your conscience or denominational teaching may forbid you to perform certain rites, sacraments, or ceremonies, you are still required to provide the religious support requested. Keep in mind that **performing** religious support and **providing** religious support are two different things. *When performing support, you are directly participating in the activity. When*

providing religious support, your role is to help the individual(s) find a chaplain who can provide the requested religious activity.

There are many different kinds of social issues you will encounter such as gossip, poor interpersonal communication, foul language, toxic leadership, discrimination, sexual harassment/abuse, to name a few. And perhaps the two most common activities engaging chaplains that can raise social issues are Marriage Ceremonies and Public Prayers. In the institutional setting, it is customary for a chaplain to be asked to begin a secular event with an invocation (Opening Prayer). In the pluralistic environment, the purpose of such prayers is purely ceremonial. As such, it is imperative to be as inclusive as possible without violating your own conscience. By doing this, you acknowledge the First Amendment rights of others while promoting the dignified and respectful treatment of different faiths and traditions. An example of an inclusive prayer, might be to start it with: “I invite you to pray in your own faith as I pray in mine.... Let us pray...” Or even less distracting, simply give the prayer without including personal Names of God. *Jesus, Jehovah, Allah, Buddha, Dianna* are personal Names of gods. But the following are titles - not Names: *Lord, God, Savior, Master, Divine Friend, Creator*. Prayers using titles instead of names fit into the pluralistic environment.

Likewise, marriage is an ancient tradition that is still important in many cultures around the world. As same-sex relationships become normalized, you should expect that at some point, you will be asked to perform a same-sex wedding. As a PCG chaplain, you are not permitted to perform such a ceremony. When asked, however, you are still required to assist the couple in finding a chaplain or other religious leader who can. Once again, this is about protecting First Amendment rights and treating others with dignity and respect. Same-sex personnel and their dependents will have access to the chapel Worship, Sunday School, Outreach, Music Programs, and other areas of the Commanding Officer’s religious program. The PCG Chaplains Commission advises its chaplains to use their personal discretion and conscience, in determining in which part of “Strong-Bonds” training they will participate.

# VETERANS AFFAIRS CHAPLAIN

The Veterans Affairs (VA) Chaplain is among the dedicated army of care givers leading with compassion for hospitalized Veterans, in particular. Concerned with the spiritual wellness of Veterans, the VA Chaplain has been essential in the mission “to care for those who have borne the battle.” Since 1865 the VA Chaplain’s focus remains the same, which is to address the spiritual and religious needs of our nation’s military heroes who are recovering from and coping with effects associated with combat and service to our great nation.

As clinicians, VA Chaplains are members of Interdisciplinary Treatment Teams and work alongside doctors, nurses, social workers, and pharmacists to contribute to the treatment plans of patients. After a Veteran is admitted to a VA Medical Center, a VA Chaplain initiates a patient visit to offer chaplain services, which include worship opportunities, study sessions of a sacred text, counseling regarding personal issues, and grief care. A patient’s spiritual needs are determined from a discussion with the patient about their religious background, sources of consolation, and hopes for discovering or maintaining the meaning of their life.



Today in our ever-evolving environment, VA Chaplains adapt to deliver spiritual care in creative ways. Prayer phone calls with patients and their families, and with medical teams are a popular option. “Tele chaplaincy,” which already existed to provide pastoral care to Veterans via video conferencing, is being utilized more. Memorial Services for medical center personnel may be conducted by VA Chaplains via the Zoom or Microsoft Teams online platforms as a way for co-workers to express love and appreciation for their fallen team members. While there is no replacement for face-to-face care to patients, VA Chaplains continue to visit all patients while taking the necessary precautions.

Veterans Affairs Chaplain positions have about 55 openings per year; and fewer than 2% of Applicants are hired. Former military and disabled veterans have priority in hiring. There are no age, physical, or security requirements; and the VA website lists the positions that are open. Your endorser prepares your Letter of Endorsement for you. Educational requirements are the same as in the military - plus CPE training. The VA requires 4 units of ACPE-CPE and the applicants be board certified.

## FBI / SECRET SERVICE / DOC CHAPLAINS

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):** In 1991 the FBI added volunteer chaplains to its roster. Today 130+ clergy serve as FBI chaplains. Although



Photo courtesy of FEMA

some lead a church, synagogue, or mosque, FBI chaplains provide spiritual support and guidance to a broader population in the Bureau. They are accessible to anyone, regardless of faith. But they also deploy to mass casualty events along with special agents and other professionals. Their

primary job during these events is to be present and available to anyone who needs them, on a strictly voluntary basis.

**United States Secret Service (USSS):** December 2017, the USSS hired its first full-time chaplain program manager for the Secret Service. USSS protects heads of state and the financial system. The Program Manager is charged with establishing the program and recruiting 150-300 volunteer chaplains for the 6,500 Secret Service employees. The purpose of the Secret Service Chaplain Program is to offer resources, assistance, and support, while providing a sensitive response to USSS employees and their family members in times of personal and professional crises.

**Federal Bureau of Prisons and Department of Corrections:** The Chaplain is responsible for the organization, supervision, and administration of



religious programs as well as other religious activities that may be designated by proper authority. The Chaplain's duties are determined and influenced by a conscientious

adherence to the basic principles and theology of the employee's faith tradition. These duties include complete services of care, worship, and instruction called for by the rights, privileges, and obligations of the Chaplain's ordination (or its equivalent), and accommodation of religious practices in support of the Constitution's First Amendment right to the free exercise of religion. Along with all other correctional institution employees, the Chaplain is charged with responsibility for maintaining security of the institution. The staff correctional responsibilities precede all others required by this position and are performed on a regular and recurring basis. The applicant must possess a bachelor's degree of not less than 120 semester hours from an accredited college; 80 semester hours of graduate credit from an ATS accredited seminary; and at least two years (4,174 hours) of pastoral/spiritual leadership in a congregation or denomination's specialized ministry within the Endorsing Body. CPE (Clinical pastoral Education) is not required, but may satisfy up to one of the two year's Pastoral experience.

The applicant must be between 21 and 37 years old for an initial appointment. They must have resided in the U.S. for 3 of the last 5 years prior to applying.





# LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CHAPLAIN (LEO)

Today, more than ever, law enforcement agencies need religious guidance, counseling, and assistance for their officers, their families and their communities. LEO Chaplains provide:

- **Pastoral care & counseling** to officers & families. Counseling members during (domestic violence), Officer injury, death or PTSD situations.
- **Prayers at ceremonies.** Whether it is a graduation from the training academy or the dedication of a new facility, the chaplain can be counted on to be the official “pray-er” for the department. They are a visible reminder of the HOLY.
- **Liaison with other clergy and the community.** The chaplain can foster good public relations with clergy and religious leaders in the community.
- **Hostage negotiations and barricade subjects.** As a part of the crisis response team, the chaplain is a support member. They are assigned to the command center to help secure information about the religious background of the hostage taker; answer religious questions; and supply emotional support to the family members at the crisis scene.
- **Death notifications.** One of the least liked tasks by officers is making death notifications. A chaplain accompanying an officer or making the notification will speed the officer’s return to available status. The chaplain can stay with the bereaved family until appropriate arrangements have been made.
- **Officer injury or illness.** The chaplain visits an injured or sick officer in the hospital or at home. The chaplain is included in notifying the family of an injured officer.



# HOSPICE / HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

Chaplaincy is a calling no matter the place! Primarily, there are only few differences between working as a hospice chaplain or as a hospital chaplain. Hospice chaplains are called to walk alongside individuals, providing the spiritual and emotional support for those transitioning from their earthly dwelling to their heavenly one.



WHAT IS A  
HOSPICE  
CHAPLAIN?

Although, most, if not all chaplains deal with death at some point in time, Hospice chaplains deal with death on a daily basis. Death is a part of life and Hospice chaplains are God's instruments of light for those in the valley of the shadow of death. After a person has transitioned, the Hospice chaplain can be called upon to facilitate the memorial or funeral service. Some believe that is the end of the Hospice chaplain's time with the family. As a bereavement coordinator, the chaplain's work continues beyond death. Grief support to loved ones may last a year or more.

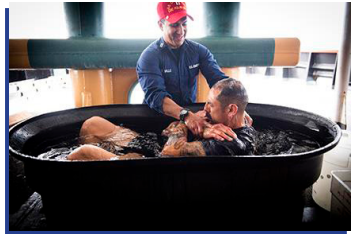
Hospital chaplains are clinical community team members. They provide support, comfort, and care to patients, caregivers, nurses, doctors, administrators and ancillary staff. Oft times the chaplain is the much needed "ear" for those experiencing trauma, anger, confusion and overwhelming circumstances. Sensitivity to various traditions and expressions of faith or no faith is essential. Meeting each individual at their most vulnerable point is where the chaplain finds the most rewarding and fruitful ministry. Hospital chaplains, like the Hospice chaplain provide the "ministry of Presence" during the transition at death. Hospital chaplains may facilitate a memorial service for a staff member, but rarely do they perform a funeral.

A **Board of Chaplaincy Certification** requires: Bachelor's degree; 72 hours from an ATS accredited seminary; 4 units of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) through ACPE, NACC, or CASC; 2,000 hours work experience; Endorsement from your Endorser; and 31 competencies met.

# ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY CHAPLAIN

Being an Active-Duty Chaplain in the Military can hold unexpected surprises for an Ordained PCG minister! A Military chaplain has opportunities, creativity, and support not always available to others, such as:

- 30 days of paid vacation each year;
- An added 15 days to attend denominational and professional training;
- Free Medical & Dental care for family;
- Low-cost Life Insurance (up to \$500,000);
- Excellent Pay & Allowances;
- Tax-free allowances for housing & meals;
- Shopping privileges at military Commissaries & Exchanges;
- Promotion opportunities;
- Travel - Continuing Education - Government Tuition-Assistance;
- Qualifying for retirement after 20 or more years of ministry.



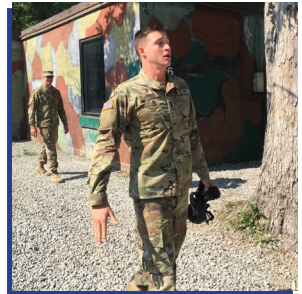
## SPECIAL DUTIES

PCG Chaplains do not serve on Courts Martial, nor manage Funds other than Religious Offering Funds. Their collateral duties might include Education, Library, Substance Control, Family Service Centers, Spiritual Retreats, Casualty & Assistance Calls, and Community Outreach, etc.

# REQUIREMENTS

The general requirements for Military Chaplains are that they:

- Must be an ordained PCG minister in good standing with their District or Department;
- Have an Ecclesiastical Endorsement signed by the Endorser;
- Must have a bachelor's degree with no less than 120 semester hours (180 quarter hours) from a qualifying educational institution.
- Possess a post-baccalaureate graduate degree in the field of Theology or related studies with a minimum of 72 semester hours (108 quarter hours) - with the percentage or required Residency at the discretion of the various branches of the military. Usually the Master of Divinity is the preferred degree from a seminary accredited by the ATS (Association of Theological Schools).
- Must pass a complete commissioning physical;
- Must be a U.S. citizen;
- Must pass a National Agency Check for security;
- Must have two years ministry experience;
- Must not be beyond their 40th birthday upon appointment. (Age requirement may be extended for those with prior military service).



# NATIONAL GUARD / RESERVE CHAPLAIN

*"ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE!!!"* EACH OF THE FIVE Active-Duty military components (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) contain Reserve components as follow:

- Army National Guard Title 32 & Title 10.
- Army Reserve Title 10.
- Navy Reserve title 10.
- Marine Corps Reserve Title 10.
- Air National Guard title 32 & title 10.
- Air Force Reserve title 10.
- Coast Guard Reserve title 14.



Members in Title 10 status serve a Federal Mission primarily, and the Commander is the President of the United States. Members in Title 32 status serve a State Mission, and the Commander is the Governor of the State. The National Guard can function in either title 10 or title 32 status depending on the need of the Nation. The Coast Guard serves primarily in Title 14 status under the direction of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Both the Reserve and the Guard train and are equipped to the same standards as their Active-Duty counterparts. Four-star member of the Joint Chiefs and Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Joseph Lengyel stated, "We are an integral part of the Joint Force in ensuring the national Defense Strategy is efficiently executed."

Each of the 54 states, territories and District of Columbia have multiple reserve and National Guard Units. Recruiters may be found on line or in brick-and-mortar offices like Active Duty recruiting stations.

**So.... what's the difference???**



Typically, a Guard or Reserve member serves part-time. One weekend per month and fifteen annual training days per year, historically kept members fully qualified and ready, should the Nation call. September



11, 2001 changed everything! The Guard and Reserve overnight became an Operational Force rather than a Reserve Force. As an Operational Force, Guard and Reserve members deploy more frequently and serve for longer periods of time. The Department

of Defense fully integrates and depends heavily upon the Guard and Reserve in the execution of the National Military Strategy. Over 800,000 Guard and Reserve members join the 1.3 million Active-Duty members defending the Homeland and fighting America's wars.

While in Title 10 and Title 32 status, Guard and Reserve members receive the same benefits Active-Duty members receive. Health care, pay and retirement are all equally available. After twenty "good years," Guard and Reserve members qualify for a military retirement. At age 60 they may begin to collect retirement pay and receive Tricare health insurance benefits for life.

For those sensing the "call" to serve in a local parish while at the same time don the military uniform as a Chaplain Citizen Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Coastie, or Airman, the National guard and Reserve welcome you.



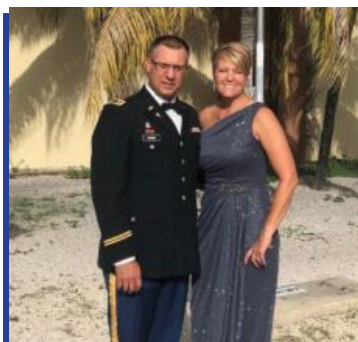
# ≡ THE CHAPLAIN'S SPOUSE ≡

The PCG Chaplain's Spouse has a unique position and lifestyle that can be both exciting and challenging. Entering into a sometimes completely unfamiliar military culture, which one is automatically expected to know how to survive, thrive, and be supportive can be daunting but at the same time, is an opportunity to grow and experience a time of adventure and discovery of the world and of oneself.

## DOING LIFE TOGETHER TRADITIONALLY:

Traditionally, military Spouses were there to value, respect, and support their spouse by:

- Helping the chaplain develop, coordinate, and promote an effective ministry in fulfilling their mission.
- Being seen as a team and being an example to those around you- in your life, marriage, and child-rearing.
- Attending chapel with your Chaplain, and being motivated in chapel activities. The congregation desired to see you and know that you're a part of the fellowship.



## DOING LIFE AS CO-PROFESSIONALS:

- In modern times, Senior officers have been reluctant to encourage spouses to support their military partner's career. Many Chaplains' spouses live abroad, and are on-assignment in their own careers, and understand that they are not "helping to earn their Chaplain's salary! (***"They earn it themselves!!!"***)"

- And so, in a politically-correct atmosphere the ‘rules,’ mores, and expectations can remain unspoken-but-still-anticipated..... if you help your spouse it will not go unnoticed, unacknowledged, and unrewarded! - particularly if you are enhancing the Commanding Officers and their programs.

The chapel offers Spiritual Growth in an Ecumenical environment and provides activities that parallel those of a civilian parish. Though there are different faiths, there are many areas of agreement that can be shared without compromising your own understanding. The goals of the chapel are religious - not military. You don't leave your church, but you find that it is a special ministry that opens many doors.

## CONSIDERATIONS:

- Prepare to live far from family of origin. The good thing is that the military spouse community is very supportive; and you will find your own little ‘family’ wherever you go! You may choose to put your career on the back burner, but maintaining your Chaplain's;
- You may let go of some of the control of your life, because the military is going to make some big changes/decisions for you;
- Parenting alone and feeling lonely. There is no one who understands the challenges of military life more than a fellow military spouse. Befriend as many as possible.



# MINISTRY AFTER RETIREMENT

***“Oh, the blissful state of long-anticipated retirement... sandy beaches or quiet mountaintop retreats with no deadlines, no deployments, and no decisions to make.” Hah! Not in this life!***

While retirement from the military does mean a regular monthly retirement check - and PT is now optional, it doesn't mean non-productive, less important ministry. Ministry after military retirement is a continuation of your endowed skills and talents, only in a different venue.

The Pentecostal Church of God has supported you and enabled you to care for the souls of America's military members and their families for many, many years. Now it's your turn to give back to the Kingdom of God and your denomination in a new and exciting way. The proven leadership skill sets you have developed over the years in service of your Nation can easily be passed on to the local parish, District projects, or even PCG National Programs. Your role as a mentor and servant-leader continues!

Upon retirement, you should seek to transfer your ministerial credentials from the Chaplain Commission to the nearest geographic District in which you reside. Over the years of military service many Chaplains maintained close communication with the District that Ordained them. Though they often lived far from that district, they nonetheless considered it their 'home.' Attendance at Annual District training events and biennial National PCG Conventions are refreshing for the present and build relational opportunities for the future. Not to mention, PTDY funding is often available for attendance at these events. Other Chaplains sought fellowship whenever and wherever possible upon changing duty stations. These relationships may be the vehicle the Lord chooses



to open new doors of ministry and continued service. One thing is for certain: your military service will conclude, but your denominational affiliation should not. Plan now for that transition by building and maintaining relationships within the PCG.

A retired military chaplain is a seasoned professional. Churches and districts of all sizes would benefit greatly from your expertise and leadership. However, a newly planted work or small struggling work may benefit the most. The wisdom, experience and stability you bring cannot be duplicated by a younger pastor who is just getting started.

Finally, perhaps the greatest gift you could offer in retirement is to be a mentor to the next generation of leaders. Your insights and knowledge of *“how the ministry, military, and move of the Spirit’ operate,”* could strengthen and inspire the foundation of a young aspiring minister.

Retirement? You are not done yet!!! You’re just changing venues and roles.







## **PRESIDING GENERAL BISHOP OF THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD:**

Bishop Wayman and Kimberly Ming

At the historic 2019 Pentecostal Church of God Centennial our Presiding General Bishop, Wayman C. Ming Jr and his wife Kimberly gave us our marching orders, "God has One Mission, the salvation of the lost and One Movement, the Church of Jesus Christ to accomplish His purposes."

As the Chaplains of the Pentecostal Church of God we therefore commit ourselves to God's unfolding future for the PCG and to this mission and vision.



## **PCG CHAPLAIN DIRECTOR/ENDORSER:**

Bishop David and Hope Reynolds  
15475 Sabillasville Rd., Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214  
717-386-1463 Dhr1975@gmail.com









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