

Baptist General Convention of Virginia

CHAPLAINCY ECCLESIASTICAL ENDORSEMENT FOR

- Military Chaplains
- Institutional Chaplains
- Pastoral Counselors

Contact:

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The basic mission of chaplaincy in the Baptist General Convention of Virginia is to provide pastoral care to all persons and facilitate the opportunity to pursue individual religious beliefs and practices.

Professional Preparation

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must possess and earned bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with at least 120 semester hours and an earned Master of Divinity degree consisting of at least 80 hours from an accredited residential seminary or school of theology.

Education must be from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by

the U.S. Department of Education. The U.S. Department of Education has a database of accredited institutions on the internet at:
<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>.

ECCLESIASTICAL ENDORSEMENT

The applicant's association with this endorsing body must reflect at least one year of either church mentorship of Virginia Union University Association. The endorsement will attest to the applicant's suitability for any type of ministry, support for his/her candidacy, a clear assurance statement that the applicant has no present or past legal or moral barrier to congregational ministry, and an affirmation that the applicant will facilitate persons of all faith opportunities to pursue individual religious beliefs and practices.

ETHICS

Applicants must be in conformity with suitability guidelines established for areas such as employment, financial and criminal history, intentional false statements or misrepresentation in the application, or moral turpitude.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

For three of the five years immediately prior to applying for an endorsement, the applicant must have resided in the United States, worked for the United States overseas in a Federal or military capacity, or be a dependent of a Federal or military employee serving overseas.

Therefore, based on the time constraints and institutional need, be aware the agency may not currently accept applications from non-United States citizens.

EXPECTATION OF APPLICANTS

It is our expectation that the applicant take seriously what is being requested of them in the process of completing the steps to fulfill the Ecclesiastical Endorsement application. Every application will receive the proper consideration when **ALL** required documents have been submitted.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

(BGCVA Endorsement Application)

***All required materials must be submitted and labeled accordingly three months prior to applying for endorsing review:**

1. Cover letter
2. BGCVA Ecclesiastical Endorsement Application (www.bgcva.org/clergy.html)
3. References (3) total: 1 from Pastor or statement from Diaconate Ministry as to your relationship with the church.
4. Ordination Certificate
5. Proof of CPE units completed.
6. Copy of College Degrees, Undergraduate and Graduate
7. Brief description of faith journey or Resume
8. Signed Covenant Agreement
9. **\$100 Non-refundable** Processing Fee (Cashier's Check/Money Order made payable to Baptist General Convention of Virginia [BGCVA], Cash App, PayPal, Givelify, or by phone).
10. **\$100 Non-refundable annual** Continuation of Endorsement Fee.

Mail all materials to:
Chaplaincy Endorsement
Baptist General Convention of VA
1214 West Graham Road
Suite 1
Richmond VA 23220

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