

2011 MINUTES
NCMAF ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Hilton Mark Center Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia
11 and 12 January 2011

“Spiritually and Ethics”

TUESDAY, 11 January

DEVOTIONAL

Paul Vicalvi, NAE – Phil Yancey in his book, What Good Is God?, describes the Orange Revolution and fraudulent election that occurred in the Ukraine. The truth was first conveyed in sign language to deaf citizens, eventually resulting in the real winner winning. What we represent as endorsers is not shown on the distorted values of the “Big Screen.” We seek to portray the truth in a smaller, but vital screen, instead of the secular humanism on the “Big Screen.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pocket schedules are included in the name tags. No time is set apart for breaks, so please take them as needed. Parking is free for conference attendees. Voting is one vote per agency. A JPEG picture is needed for the NCMAF directory. This year’s presentations are being videoed and will be posted on the NCMAF website.

CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS

Following devotions by Chaplain Paul Vicalvi, the conference was called to order by Chairman Edward Brogan. The following new endorsers were introduced:

<u>Name of Endorser</u>	<u>Religious Body</u>
Stephen Boyd	United Church of Christ
David Erb (Returning)	Church of God Ministries
David Kennedy	Baptist General Conference
Klon Kitchen, Jr.	Chaplaincy Full Gospel Churches
Sarah Lammert	Unitarian Universalist
Ron Klimp	Christian Reformed Church of America
Charles Law	American Baptist Association
James Magness	The Episcopal Church
H. G. Miller	Anglican Mission in the Americas
Richard Pace	Church of God (Cleveland, TN)
Cregg Puckett	Congregational Methodist
James Smith	Baptist Bible Fellowship
Kenneth Walsh	Anglican Church, USA
Timothy White	Lutheran Congregations in Missions for Christ

The following new associate endorsers were also recognized:

<u>Name of Endorser</u>	<u>Religious Body</u>
George Garner	American Baptist Association
Therman "Pet" Hayes	Congregational Methodist
Wally Jensen	The Episcopal Church
Mark Jumper	Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The following guests were acknowledged and welcomed:

<u>Guests</u>	<u>Sponsor and Religious Body</u>
Muhammad Abdul-Rasheed	Diane Hummeid – Islamic Society of North America
John E. Caterson	American Bible Society
Del Farris	Douglas Lee – Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel
Robert Grant	H.G. Miller – Anglican Mission in the Americas
Richard Gorman	Robert Collins – Free Methodist Church of North America
Gary Hedges	International Fellowship of Bible Churches Chaplaincy Services
Jerry Jones	Hugh Morgan – International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Inc.
Lee Lawrence	Chaplains Under Fire
Jose McLaughlin	Gary Councill – Seventh-day Adventist
Bernard Niswander	Kerry Kind – The Wesleyan Church
James Puchy	American Bible Society
Lester Rilea	Gary Councill – Seventh-day Adventist
Larry and Joanne Roth	Gary Councill – Seventh-day Adventist
Kurt Spond	Rex Carpenter – Free Methodist Church of North America
Chris Thompson	Hugh Morgan – International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Inc.
Jessica Tipton	Charles Davidson – Liberty Baptist Fellowship
Ken Werho	Allen Russell – Conservative Baptist Association of America
Whit Woodard	Civil Air Patrol

SPEAKERS

Dr. Louis Iasiello – "How Chaplains Can Respond to the Many Issues That Confront Us Today." Endorsers, especially those who are veterans, have many critical responsibilities: training, passing the tradition (to hand on) of institutional chaplaincy and mentoring. Veteran chaplains should help record chaplain corps history and lessons learned. Graduation from a branch chaplain school may enable survival, but does not guarantee acquisition of professional skill sets. Endorsers must identify the

essential skill sets and insure they are part of the professional preparation for those considering the special calling of the chaplaincies. NCMAF and MCA only advise. Faith groups must become involved in resolving issues that impact religion in the military. A special “think tank” should be formed to corporately address common issues. What kind of issues should a policy institute consider? Evangelism versus proselytizing, quotas, privileged communication, professional competencies, nature of public prayer, noncombatancy, conscience and career, impact of DADT repeal, etc. He advocated an Institute of Military Chaplaincy to help guide response to issues and formulate policies. The new Armed Forces Chaplains Center on Fort Jackson could fill this need. Respect does not imply or mean agreement.

Chaplain (Colonel) Eric Wester – “Spirituality and Ethics.” See attached slides. The dry, academic and clinical has traction in the institution where chaplains do ministry. The military is investigating what a decade of sustained combat has done to the military community? The three components of spirituality are religious identification, connection to others and hopeful outlook. Training does not produce character.

Three resources:

War and Redemption by Larry Dewey

Forging the Warrior’s Character by Don M. Snider

“The Bathsheba Syndrome” by Ludwig and Longecker; *Journal of Business Ethics*, April 1993. Several factors contribute to moral failure among successful leaders: privileged access to information, control over resources and perception that one can manipulate outcomes.

Chaplain, Captain, Erik Harp, USAF – After lunch. Chaplains get no breaks from “ramp” ceremonies. Endorsers can be an insulating factor by consistent contact. Everyday ministry was a mass casualty day (25-65 patients) at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. On some days as many as three patients died from their wounds. What does all the death mean? All the world’s values are absent from the rooms where patients died. The only things that mattered were family, friends and faith. The living give their lives as well as those killed in action. Chaplain Harp used a single shoe as an illustration of the sacrifices made by soldiers. In one ward a nurse observed that six patients had lost a total of twelve limbs. Donations of clothing and shoes are needed for the wounded warriors, who arrive in a hospital gown and blanket. At the ministry center volunteers sorted donations. A barrel full of single shoes was kept to meet needs of amputees.

PANELS and RESPONSES

Dr. Iasiello – Some objections were raised to the concept of a “think tank.” Mutual religious respect has often been lacking and must be developed. Along with the Army review, the military chaplaincy needs to relook at who we are. The Supreme Court has determined that the military is a separate society that can require a different set of values. Religious organizations must recognize the military imperative. We must prepare people for entry into the military. Generally, chaplains are viewed as highly credible, except by female military members. Chaplains are perceived as affirming the roles of the institution. Be conscious of accommodation issues, because everything

chaplains do and represent are accommodations to the purpose of the military. Be aware of the present reality – over 25% of troops have no religious preference, which is larger than any single faith component. Regardless of their unique differences, the respective branch chaplain schools have modeled how faiths can work together. How do we prepare the right people for the chaplaincies? Evaluate “emotional IQ” and help them develop relational skills thru CPE and other training. The EXCOM established a standing committee to consider accommodation concerns.

Chaplain Wester – No quick fixes or easy solutions to developing spirituality, ethics and resiliency. Is the source of our morality from what is trained or discovered? In the military people without faith can be ethical. There is no religious test for public officials. Religion can help promote ethics.

BUSINESS SESSION

The business session was chaired by Ed Brogan. The following four items of business on the agenda were presented for consideration by NCMAF members:

- Farewells
- Secretary’s Report
- Treasurer’s Report
- Nominating Committee Report

FAREWELLS

<u>Name of Endorser</u>	<u>Religious Body</u>
Tom Chadwick	Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel
John Gundlach	United Church of Christ
Kay Schwendiman	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Secretary Gary Councill presented the minutes from the 2010 NCMAF Annual Conference business session. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Darrel Morton presented the treasurer’s report and budget. He called attention to several items reflected in the fiscal summations shared with the members. The Custom Summary Report showed activity from 1 Jan thru 31 Dec 10 with a total income of \$136,861 and expenses of \$166,408 for a net loss of \$29,547. To help narrow the deficit \$25,000 was withdrawn from savings. Fair Share contributions totaled \$87,005. A total of \$22,817 was collected in registration fees. NCMAF received \$3,998 in designated offerings and \$8,038 from Combined Federal Campaign contributions. Currently, the operating fund has a balance of \$16,000+ in the account. The motion to accept the treasurer’s report and budget for 2010 was voted approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee report was read. No new nominations were offered from the floor, so the report was unanimously voted approved.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Steve Doan	Chair
David Mullis	Chair-elect
Don den Dulk	Treasurer
Tom Carter	Members-at-large
Jan Horton	
Sam Morgan	

REVISION TO CODE OF ETHICS

Roy Bebee presented the subcommittee's recommendations for consideration by the membership as shown below:

Paragraph 9 – *I will defend my colleagues against unfair discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion or national origin.* After much discussion paragraph 9 was left the same.

Paragraph 10 – *I will hold in confidence any privileged communication received by me during the conduct of my ministry. I will not disclose confidential communications in private or in public.* The following change was voted: **I will hold in confidence all privileged and confidential communication.**

Paragraph 11 – *I will not proselytize from other religious bodies, but I retain the right to evangelize those who are not affiliated.* After considerable discussion paragraph 11 was voted changed as follows: **I will respect all persons of other religious faiths. I will respond to any expressed need for spiritual guidance and pastoral care to those who seek my counsel.**

DVD – CHAPLAINS UNDER FIRE

Table-talk: Chaplains Under Fire. Four clips from the DVD, "Chaplains Under Fire," were shown: Introduction, First Amendment, Grief and Chaplain Role. A sheet listing some suggested questions was provided to start discussion. Attendees around each tables then shared experiences and views prompted by the various clips. Opportunity was provided for individuals to share their viewpoints.

WEDNESDAY, 13 January

DEVOTIONAL

Robert Johnson failed to arrive due to inclement weather. Jack Williamson spoke on Psalms 139 and asked for reflection on the Tucson tragedy. Doug Lee led in a song.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Shannon French – "From Hearts of Chaplains to Souls of Soldiers." Quote from a soldier on the front lines: We all figured we would be dead, so it did not really matter

what we did in the next few minutes, but then we thought we must act on conscience. Religion does matter. Warrior codes have always existed and usually are connected with the religions of their cultures. The spiritual dimensions of war are impossible to escape. While retching, the experiences of war can actually be helped by faith. How do you reconcile a loving God with killing? Military members kill with restraints, not from hate in limited ways. Reasons for restraints: (1) Hope for reciprocity from the enemy. This usually results in escalation by both sides. Often, one side does not abide by any rules, or has regard for human life. The casualty is peace. (2) International opinion. Not all belligerents care about other's opinions. Cover-ups occur to hide atrocities. Ideally, the motivation to fight with honor should have external and internal values. The real issue is what a lack of restraint does to the individual warrior. Warriors are asked to kill on a society's behalf. Combat can ruin good character through the betrayal of what's right. Fighting for one's country can make one unfit to be its citizen. War is profoundly human, unless the enemy is seen as beastly, sub-human. Then it can be degrading, hell and in need of redemption. The pain of war is hope for humanity; otherwise, we would become too fond of it. The weaker the moral foundation of troops, the stronger must be the guidelines and principles of warfare. We must not take pride in the uniform away from our warriors. Laws and rules appeal to the head, but beliefs and values rule the heart. Warriors are accountable for what they do in war. Repentance and reconciliation are essential for returning warriors, not to punish, but to heal their relationship with God and others through forgiveness to help transition into civilian life and their communities.

Robert Tuttle – “Don't Ask, Don't Tell Legislative Repeal.” The language of rights is not necessarily helpful, especially when the “rights” of chaplains are mentioned. First, the stress on the rights of chaplains misses the main point. Chaplains exist to serve the spiritual needs of people in the military. Chaplains are agents, not the bearers of rights. Second, a significant portion of the chaplain's duties are government controlled. In a court case over a teacher's right to “free speech,” the teacher was seen as an official employee and spokes-person for the government and could not offer personal or political opinion. Third, the focus on chaplain's rights diverts attention from free exercise of religion. If the government can show there is a compelling interest in a matter, then the government can do it. The government cannot control the content of religious ministry without establishing religion. Religious ministry belongs to religious faith, not the government. The chaplain has two distinct roles: (1) Creating the opportunity and possibility for expression of religious faith. Government must remain neutral and facilitate meeting the needs of all. (2) Delivery of religious faith content via the authority of a voluntary arrangement of faith groups, religious leaders and adherents. This describes pluralism. Worship in a pluralistic environment is grounded in a faith community; advertised as such and still distinctive.

Chaplains conduct worship, preach and teach according to the dictates of the faith they represent. Government cannot define worship. This is truth in advertising. Chaplains with the guidance of the sending community can give any message they choose in a voluntary setting. Religious ministry is always determined by the authority of the endorsing faith. The government defines religious ministry as identifying need and

facilitating opportunity. Chaplains do other duties that fall outside religious ministry, which the government can dictate; conducting a unit retreat, teach a class, pray at a formation, etc. The content is owned by command; the government owns the message. Chaplains should be free to opt out and not lend her or his status to the community, especially when opportunity is present for referral. A difference exists between pluralistic religion and ministry in a pluralistic environment. DADT repeal prompts mixed reactions.

Dr. Ellen Fox, VA – After Lunch. Chaplains should be part of the ethics consultation team. Seventy percent of hospitals use chaplains for ethics consultation. Chaplains face many ethical dilemmas of complex relationships that can create conflicts. In turn, conflict often causes ethical concerns. An ethical concern is ‘uncertainty or conflict about values.’ Prevention is better than reactionary attempting to get around, over or lean on a situation.

PANEL

Dr. French – Though often undiagnosed and unreported, PTSD occurred among Nazi troops. Even in the asymmetrical warfare of terrorism where our restraints are used as a weapon against us, warrior responses must still be balanced to avoid collateral damage / killing. We must always fight according to our values. Return trips to former battle sites and meetings with former enemies often brings healing. Telling the truth about combat also helps. What will help chaplains who have seen so much death and suffering? Though the military does care and offers assistance, don't wait for the military structure to assist chaplains. Faith groups will need to do that. War and Moral Dissonance by Peter French.

Attorney Tuttle – Government cannot require a religious ministry, but can require referral. Power limitation, rather than “rights.” Chaplains can refuse to do something, but may suffer collateral damage; i.e., detrimental evaluation, etc. Endorsers can help explain religious positions to military commanders. The chaplain has no right to control the content of prayer in a public setting; *Turner versus the City of Fredericksburg*, 2008; and prayer at VMI lunch. In response to the repeal of DADT, a religious exemption clause is not needed in Title 10. Some revision to the UCMJ will be needed.

LUNCH

Dr. Ellen Fox, VA Chief of Ethics – After lunch. Chaplains should be part of any ethical consultation team. Seventy percent of hospitals include chaplains for ethics responses. Two scenarios were presented for tables to discuss ethical responses. Attendees expressed solutions, and then Dr. Fox related the real-life outcomes.

BUSINESS SESSION

The second business session was chaired by Ed Brogan and Jack Williamson.

The gavel was given by Ed Brogan to Steve Doan, the newly elected Chair. A gift of appreciation was presented to Ed by Steve.

Evaluation sheets were requested to be completed.

Appreciation was also expressed to Rebecca Waldman for her administrative work and organization in preparing the logistical support for this year's conference.

The 2012 NCMAF Plenary will be held 9 thru 12 January in the Hilton Mark Center Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary R. Councill". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gary R. Councill
Secretary