

# The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces



## NCMAF Needs Your Support

We are requesting your financial support for the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) because providing chaplains for ministry to our military communities is important to you...and to us. The ministry of our members is to provide (endorse) the best civilian clergy possible to become military chaplains.

NCMAF as a one-of-a-kind organization, has Many Voices but One Calling. Our Many Voices represent our members from more than 250 different denominations and faith groups. No other group anywhere in the world has such a diverse membership of religious leaders. Our One Calling is to provide chaplains to serve the spiritual needs of each of the many voices and hearts within our military communities. Our members, like the chaplains they endorse, work together cooperatively without compromising their unique spiritual beliefs and traditions.

NCMAF's roots go back to 1901 when the War Department (predecessor to the Department of Defense) required the ecclesiastical endorsement of clergy persons to serve as military chaplains.



NCMAF is Protestant and Roman Catholic, Jewish and Orthodox, Buddhist, Islamic and others. Our members represent a wide theological spectrum of faith organizations making up most all of the organized religious communities in the United States.

We are asking for your support of NCMAF so that we may continue to serve our military communities by recruiting and endorsing our best civilian clergy to become chaplains—chaplains who care and are committed to ministry within military communities. Our NCMAF members seek to endorse chaplains who are credible, committed to their faith, willing to serve all persons, able to meet military standards and who represent the expectations of their own faith communities.

NCMAF is the point of contact between the armed forces and a chaplain's civilian faith community. We facilitate a systematic and ongoing dialogue among and between the various religious bodies and the Department of Defense. Our unity is a demonstration to the Department of Defense and the nation of our common areas of moral and spiritual convictions.

When the need exists to address the Department of Defense or the Congress about issues of significance to faith communities, our unity provides a significant power base from which to speak as one voice from the many voices we represent.



## NCMAF Depends On You

As a nonprofit organization, NCMAF's financial existence is dependent on benevolent contributions from military worshipping communities at installations around the world and member faith groups.

Our interfaith nature and support for military ministry from so many faith groups makes NCMAF a very appropriate recipient for chapel offerings. You can help ensure that our voice will continue to be heard, a voice raised on behalf of chaplains and quality ministry for every member of the military community.

Most recently we have been approved to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) as an organizational recipient under the Military, Veterans and Patriotic Section, listed as "Ministry to the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy," CFC #2151.

Organizations listed with CFC are required to use no more than 25% of their revenue for administrative costs, with at least 75% going to program services' costs. NCMAF's administrative costs are only 14.9%, which means 85.1% of our revenue goes to program services as certified by an independent audit.

- NCMAF works closely with each of the Service Chiefs of Chaplains and their staffs and leaders from the Department of Defense and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. We insure that the best-qualified clergy are brought in to serve as your chaplains.
- NCMAF trains and equips our endorsers to recruit fully qualified chaplains who are able to provide the diverse and specialized ministry required for needs of our military constituents.
- NCMAF's endorsers provide pastoral support to chaplains through visits wherever they are stationed around the world. During these visits endorsers consult with chaplain supervisors and staffs, commanders and worshipping communities.
- Through your financial and prayerful support, our endorsers will continue providing fully qualified chaplains to serve throughout our military communities—anytime, anywhere.

## You Can Depend on Chaplains

We all know this to be true: Fully qualified and highly trained chaplains are needed and valued within our military communities. In times of war, increased deployments and family separations, your chaplains are critically important and indispensable for the unique spiritual care and support they provide.

A chaplain's ministry to military members, their families, federal civilians, retirees and veterans is a specialized ministry based on the free exercise of religion. Unique skills, abilities and sensitivities are required of military chaplains beyond expectations for civilian clergy.

It's reassuring to know that you can depend on your chaplains to be present for ministry to you and your family—anytime, anywhere.



## The NCMAF Covenant for Chaplains

Having accepted God's Call to minister to people who serve in the Armed Forces of our country, I covenant to serve God and these people with God's help; to deepen my obedience to the commandments, to love the Lord our God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. In affirmation of this commitment, I will abide by the Code Of Ethics for Chaplains of the Armed Forces, and I will faithfully support its purposes and ideals. As further affirmation of my commitment, I covenant with my colleagues in ministry that we will hold one another accountable for fulfillment of all public actions set forth in our Code of Ethics.



# NCMAF Code of Ethics for Chaplains

I will hold in trust the traditions and practices of my religious body.

I will carefully adhere to whatever direction may be conveyed to me by my endorsing body for maintenance of my endorsement.

I understand, as a chaplain in the Armed Forces, that I must function in a pluralistic environment with chaplains of other religious bodies to provide for ministry to all military personnel and their families entrusted to my care.

I will seek to provide for pastoral care and ministry to persons of religious bodies other than my own within my area of responsibility with the same investment of myself as I give to members of my own religious body. I will work collegially with chaplains of religious bodies other than my own as together we seek to provide as full a ministry as possible to our people. I will respect the beliefs and traditions of my colleagues and those to whom I minister. When conducting services of worship that include persons of other than my religious body, I will draw upon those beliefs, principles, and practices that we have in common.

I will, if in a supervisory position, respect the practices and beliefs of each chaplain I supervise, and exercise care not to require of them any service or practice that would be in violation of the faith practices of their particular religious body.

(continued)



I will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues throughout the military environment.

I will maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayer and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, and regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for professional and personal development. I will seek to maintain good health habits.

I will recognize that my obligation is to provide ministry to all members of the Military Services, their families, and other authorized personnel. When on Active Duty, I will only accept added responsibility in civilian ministry if it does not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my primary military ministry.

I will defend my colleagues against unfair discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, or national origin.

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.

I will not proselytize from other religious bodies, but I retain the right to evangelize those who are non-affiliated.

I will show personal love for God in my life and ministry, as I strive together with my colleagues to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of the profession to which we have been called.

I recognize the special power afforded me by my ministerial office. I will never use that power in ways that violate the personhood of another human being, religiously, emotionally or sexually. I will use my pastoral office only for that which is best for the persons under my ministry.

## Contributions may be sent to:

The National Conference on Ministry  
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