


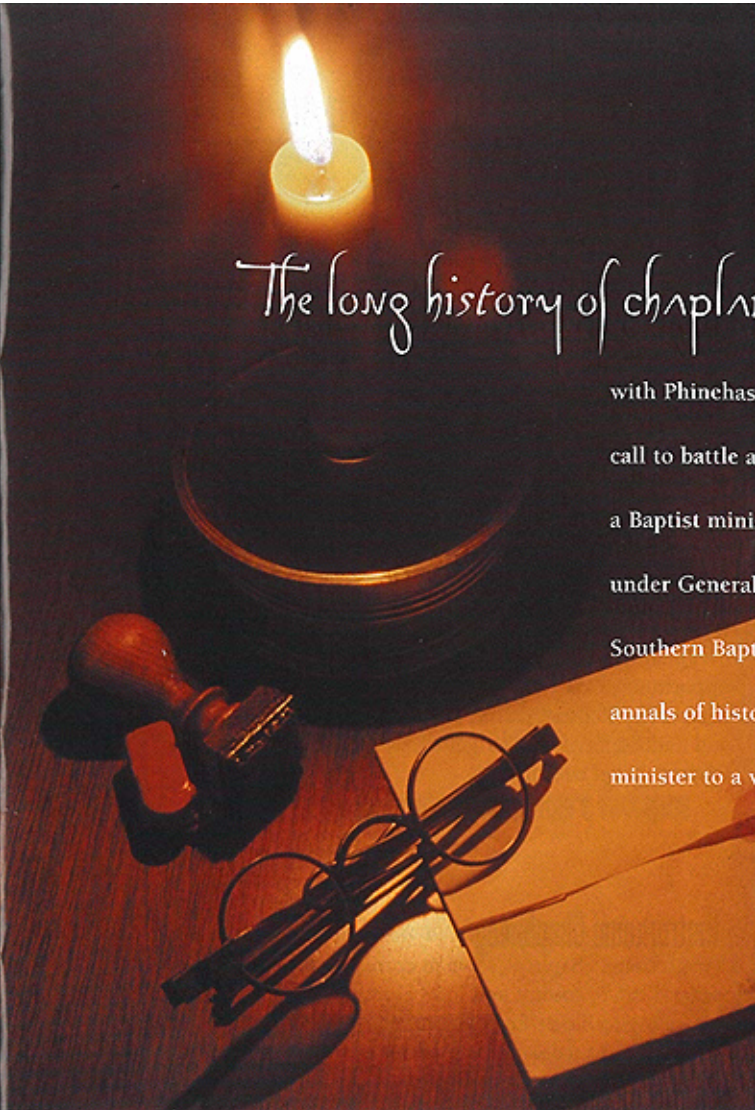
# Chaplaincy And Counseling Ministries



Southern Baptist Convention

Ministries  
of Witness  
and  
Care





## The long history of chaplaincy begins

with Phinehas, a Levite and grandson of Aaron, who responded to Moses' call to battle as a chaplain (see Num. 31:6). It is from Chaplain John Gano, a Baptist minister from New York City, who served as a military chaplain under General George Washington during the Revolutionary War that Southern Baptists find their roots for chaplaincy ministry. Throughout the annals of history, Spirit-led chaplains have responded to the call of God to minister to a variety of people's needs.



### What Is Chaplaincy?

Chaplaincy is an expression of ministry that places chaplains inside various settings, which include healthcare agencies, corporations, prisons, public safety agencies, and the military services. As such, chaplaincy is an extension of the local church reaching into our religiously diverse and multi-cultural society providing spiritual care to people. Chaplains practice the pastoral functions of pastor, teacher, evangelist, counselor, and administrator as they represent Jesus Christ, the church, and the denomination from "inside" the using agency.

### What Is Counseling Ministry?

Counseling ministry is an expression of counseling by which a minister with specialized clinical training seeks to help others cope with personal, marital, family, social, and/or religious issues. The awareness of the presence of God as the ultimate reality makes counseling a "ministry." Counselors in ministry serve in pastoral counseling centers, Baptist association offices, and local churches.

# CHURCH-BASED CHAPLAINCY

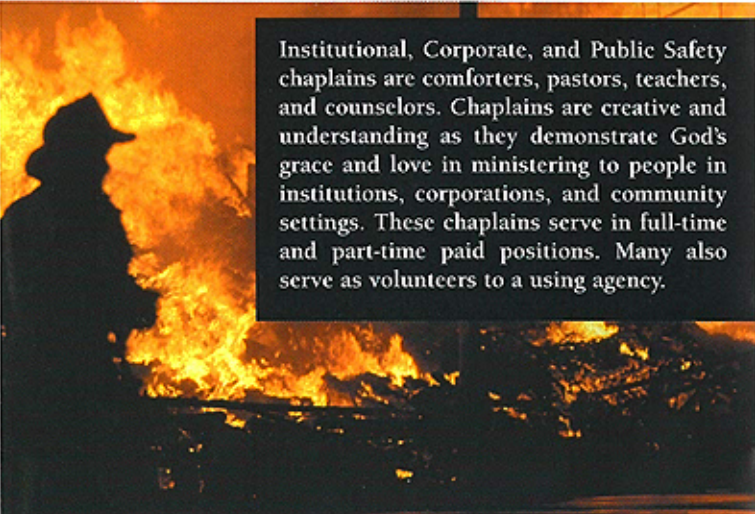
Ministry to the community that surrounds a local church is challenging and offers a variety of opportunities for the church to express ministries of witness and care. A local church can expand its arena of ministry with volunteer chaplains serving in:

- Corporations
- School systems
- Correctional facilities
- Law enforcement agencies
- Healthcare agencies
- Disaster Relief services
- Housing Area/Subdivision

Training is available through the state convention chaplaincy representative. SBC endorsement is provided for trained volunteer chaplains in partnership with their local church, which appoints the person to these ministries.



# INSTITUTIONAL, CORPORATE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY



Institutional, Corporate, and Public Safety chaplains are comforters, pastors, teachers, and counselors. Chaplains are creative and understanding as they demonstrate God's grace and love in ministering to people in institutions, corporations, and community settings. These chaplains serve in full-time and part-time paid positions. Many also serve as volunteers to a using agency.



# DISASTER RELIEF CHAPLAINCY

Disaster Relief chaplains provide chaplaincy ministry in conjunction with disaster relief. Mobilization of chaplains is accomplished through the State Convention Disaster Relief Director. Assignments will be either with other Disaster Relief units or as a Chaplaincy Unit.

Qualifications are met through three training courses. Training opportunities are coordinated through the State Convention Chaplaincy Representative. For further information about training and endorsement contact your state chaplaincy representative or Disaster Relief coordinator.

## Institutional Chaplaincy

Institutional chaplains serve in correctional facilities operated by federal, state, county, and local agencies as well as corporations operating facilities. Each jurisdiction has particular qualifications for hiring chaplains. To apply for a position, contact that jurisdiction's Department of Corrections Chaplaincy Administrator.

## Public Safety Chaplaincy

Chaplains serving with law enforcement, fire department, and emergency services agencies minister to the employees of the agency as well as the people served in the community. Many chaplains in this area serve as volunteer chaplains.

## Corporate Chaplaincy

Many corporate chaplains are hired by private companies to minister to the employees and families of the company. Some corporate chaplains are hired by "chaplaincy ministry organizations" that have contracts with companies to provide chaplaincy services. In either situation, the business or agency will have their own qualifications for hiring chaplains. All inquiries for employment should be made to that business or agency.

# HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY

Hospital chaplains are members of healthcare healing teams. They are people called by God and trained to serve in an environment of sickness, pain, birth, and death.

Holistic medicine is the term used today, meaning that people are treated as total beings—mind, body, and spirit. Total patient care provides for a person's spiritual as well as physical and mental needs. Chaplaincy programs offering pastoral care are key services in total patient care.



## The hospital chaplain's ministries may include:

- Caring for patients and their families in bedside visits.
- Care and counsel with staff.
- Contributing as a member of a healthcare team.
- Conducting workshops for hospital staff and local pastors.
- Referring patients to local churches and community services.

## The hospital chaplain serves in all types of healthcare facilities.

- Veteran's Affairs Medical Centers
- Hospice organizations
- Mental health centers
- Facilities for those who are mentally handicapped
- Facilities for special illnesses
- Children's hospitals
- Retirement center and nursing home facilities

Some hospitals are denominationally related. Others are operated by private, public, and government agencies. Healthcare chaplains serve through support by state conventions, associations, or some other group concerned with providing a religious ministry. Programs of hospital ministry include full-time employment, part-time chaplaincy, and volunteer opportunities.

# BENEFITS

## of Being Endorsed by the SBC

Endorsed individuals receive numerous benefits from their official relationship with NAMB:

### Professional Development

- Annual regional and national conferences.
- Annual chaplain's luncheon at the SBC meeting.
- Continuing education.

### Financial

- Assistance to attend conferences.
- Assistance to meet crisis needs related to chaplaincy.
- Assistance from the Alfred A. Carpenter Scholarship Fund for continuing education.
- Access to discounts for computer hardware and software.

### Personal

- On-site visits, correspondence, and telephone communication with Chaplaincy Evangelism Team staff.
- Pastoral support by Chaplaincy Evangelism Team staff.
- Counsel and support in disciplinary proceedings.
- Employment counseling and referral.
- Fellowship opportunities with other chaplains and counselors.

### Denominational Relationships

- Official relationship with the Chaplains Commission, SBC.
- Connection with the denomination through the Chaplaincy Evangelism Team.
- Listing in the SBC Annual.
- Subscription to NAMB publications and SBC Life.