

Bible Institutes of America International Association of Chaplains

What is Chaplaincy:

A **chaplain** is a cleric (such as a minister, priest, pastor, rabb, or imam), or a lay representative of a religious tradition, attached to a secular institution such as a hospital, prison, military unit, school, business, police department, fire department, university, or private chapel.

Though originally the word *chaplain* referred to representatives of the Christian faith, it is now also applied to people of other religions or philosophical traditions—such as the case of chaplains serving with military forces and an increasing number of chaplaincies at American universities. In recent times, many lay people have received professional training in chaplaincy and are now appointed as chaplains in schools, hospitals, companies, universities, prisons and elsewhere to work alongside, or instead of, official members of the clergy. The concepts of *multifaith*, *secular*, *generic* and/or *humanist* chaplaincy are also gaining increasing support, particularly within healthcare and educational settings.

Bible Institutes of America would like to welcome you to its International Association of Chaplains. This Association has been deemed as one of our most prestigious programs. This is a Global honor for Global leaders in their church, community, political areas, ministry, organizations, corporation, religions, and faith. The Chaplaincy program extends its interfaith honor to different race, faith, ethnic backgrounds, and social organizations. BIOA Chaplaincy program is covered under the Accreditation Board of Transworld International Accrediting Commission located in Riverside, California.

Types of Chaplaincies

Education

School chaplains are a fixture in religious and, more recently, secular schools. In religious schools the role of the chaplain tends to be educational and liturgical. In secular schools the role of the chaplain tends to be that of a mentor and a provider of pastoral care services. Chaplains provide care for students by supporting them during times of crisis or need. Many chaplains run programs to promote the welfare of students, staff and parents including programs to help students deal with grief, anger or depression. Chaplains also build relationships with students by participating in extracurricular activities such as breakfast programs, lunchtime groups and sports groups. School chaplains can also liaise with external organizations providing support services for the school. With stagnant incomes and rising prices putting pressure on independent school budgets, cutting the post of school chaplain can seem an *easy* saving. Many schools now have pupil support departments with several mentors whose jobs are to look out for the pupils and always be there to help but they give no religious or spiritual guidance because of multiculturalism and diverse opinions on religion and beliefs. Chaplains have also been referred to as spiritual animators (also faith animators or pastoral animators) based on the French concept of *animation spirituelle* or spiritual care.

Bible Institutes of America International Association of Chaplains

Fire departments

Chaplains working with fire departments provide the same kind of support as do chaplains working with law enforcement, and sometimes face even greater danger, working with the wounded in often very dangerous surroundings.

Environmental

Environmental chaplaincy is an emerging field within chaplaincy. Environmental chaplains (also known as eco-chaplains, Earth chaplains, nature chaplains) provide spiritual care in a way that honors humanity's deep connection to the earth. Environmental chaplains hold many roles. They may support people working on the frontlines of issues like climate change or other environmental issues or they may support people impacted by industrial or other disasters by providing pastoral care, presence, and rituals. Environmental chaplains may also bear witness to the Earth itself and represent the merging of science and spirituality. Their role can be to "usher in a new conscience and consciousness to find contentment, the appreciation of inner riches over outer wealth, quality over quantity" using universally appreciated values, such as honesty and vision.

Health care

Many hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospices employ chaplains to assist with the spiritual, religious, and emotional needs of patients, families and staff. Chaplains are often employed at residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFE) and skilled nursing facilities (SNF) as well. **Chaplains care for people of all faiths.** In mental health work, chaplains are highly skilled at working with other therapists as part of a multi-disciplinary team, especially where the patient's mental ill-health is associated with their religiosity, or where their mental well-being can be aided by spiritual care.

The College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy. Certification typically requires a Masters of Divinity degree (or its equivalent), faith group ordination or commissioning, faith group endorsement, and four units (1600 hours) of Clinical Pastoral Education, in which BIOA offers.

Law enforcement and Police

Law enforcement or police chaplains work with and as part of local, regional, county, state, and national or federal law enforcement and provide a variety of services within the law enforcement community. They should not be confused with prison chaplains, whose primary ministry is to those who are incarcerated either awaiting trial or after conviction. The role of the law enforcement chaplain deals primarily with law enforcement personnel and agencies. The chaplain responds to these unique needs and challenges with religious guidance, reassuring and trustworthy presence, resources and counseling services. The law enforcement chaplain offers support to law enforcement officers, administrators, support staff, victims and their families, and occasionally even the families of accused or convicted offenders. Law enforcement chaplaincy is a ministry of presence and must have the proper training if they are working with law enforcement officers. Some ministries such as Chaplain Fellowship Ministries requires LEO chaplains to be certified in Public Safety Chaplaincy before becoming certified as a LEO

Bible Institutes of America International Association of Chaplains

chaplain. Most chaplains are uniformed and some may have a rank, they will always wear distinguishing insignia and/or markings to denote their chaplain rather than lawman status.

Military

Military chaplains provide pastoral, spiritual and emotional support for service personnel, including the conduct of religious services at sea, on bases or in the field.

Chaplains are nominated, appointed, or commissioned in different ways in different countries Religious Program Specialist may be appointed to help alleviate some of the duties bestowed upon chaplains.

At times, the existence of military chaplains has been challenged in countries that have a separation of Church and State.

Music

Some chaplains use live music as a therapeutic tool. Music can aid in healing, access core faith and emotions, and help to build rapport in the chaplaincy relationship.

Musical bands (especially Christian groups) may bring a chaplain with them to conduct services while they are on tour. There can also be chaplains who minister to concert-goers at music festivals

Muslim chaplains do not use music, as it is forbidden.

Parliamentary

Some nations, including the United States and the United Kingdom, have chaplains appointed to work with parliamentary bodies, such as the Chaplain of the United States Senate, the Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives, and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. In addition to opening proceedings with prayer, these chaplains provide pastoral counseling to congressional members, their staffs, and their families; coordinate the scheduling of guest chaplains, who offer opening prayers; arrange and sometimes conduct marriages, memorial services, and funeral services for congress, staff, and their families; and conduct or coordinate religious services, study groups, prayer meetings, holiday programs, and religious education programs, as well.

Prison

Prison chaplains can be a "safety valve, through listening and pro-social intervention" in potentially explosive situations. They also reduce recidivism by linking offenders to positive community resources, and in the work they do to help offenders change their hearts, minds and directions.

Sports

A sports chaplain provides pastoral care for the sports person and the broader sports community including the coach, administrators and their families.

Bible Institutes of America International Association of Chaplains

Chaplains to sports communities have existed since the middle of the 20th century and have significantly grown in the past 20 years. The United States, United Kingdom and Australia have well established Christian sports chaplaincy ministries.

Animal

Veterinary chaplains serve people and their animals, ministering with regards to the spirituality associated with animals and their connections with humans. A major function is grief support and prayer. Other services include hospice support while animals are cared for near the end of their lives; support in animal health crises, including at the veterinary hospital; conducting services for animal blessings, naming/adopting ceremonies, and end of life celebration ceremonies. Veterinary chaplains may also offer sermons and spiritual guidance on the human/animal bond and our responsibilities toward animals; and some may visit nursing homes and hospitals with therapeutic animal assistants. Other veterinary chaplains may provide blessings for animal care workers and assist with human/animal communication.

Colonial

A colonial chaplain was appointed to a colony. The term is commonly used to refer to the chaplain appointed as a non-military chaplain to one of the Crown Colonies from the late 18th century or early 19th century. .

Corporate

Some businesses, large or small, employ chaplains for their staff and/or clientele. Services provided may include employee assistance and counseling services; wellness seminars; conflict management and mediation; leadership and management development; and trauma/serious incident response. In 2007, 4,000 corporate chaplains were reported to be working in the U.S. with the majority being employees of specialist chaplaincy companies such as Marketplace Chaplains USA¹ and Corporate Chaplains of America. In 2014, Marketplace Chaplains USA reported employing over 2,800 chaplains in 44 states and over 960 cities. The organization added an international arm in 2006; Marketplace Chaplains International serves Canada, the U.K., Mexico and Puerto Rico. Capellania Empresarial provides corporate chaplaincy services in Paraguay. Chaplains without Borders has been providing corporate and other chaplaincy services in Australia since 2005.

Cruise

Working on board cruise ships, cruise chaplains provide pastoral and spiritual support to both passengers and crew members. With the co-operation of cruise companies, chaplains normally stay on board for the specific duration of a cruise.

Domestic

A domestic chaplain was a chaplain attached to a noble household in order to grant the family a degree of self-sufficiency in religion. The chaplain was freed from any obligation to reside in a particular place so

Bible Institutes of America International Association of Chaplains

could travel with the family, internationally if necessary, and minister to their spiritual needs. Further, the family could appoint a chaplain who reflected their own doctrinal views. Domestic chaplains performed family christenings, funerals and weddings and were able to conduct services in the family's private chapel, excusing the nobility from attending public worship.

There are also chaplains to private clubs, television or radio stations, family, community teams, groups such as Boys and Girls Brigade companies and Scout troops, airports, cruise ships.

Requirements:

- Each chaplain-elect will be nominated by an individual, organization, ministry, association, and/or alumni. If chaplain-elect was not nominated, he/she must provide 7 references of various types to BIOAIAC.
- Each chaplain-elect will undergo a background check
- Chaplaincy registration must be completed and submitted before the process begins
- \$1,500.00 U.S. Currency Chaplaincy License and Certification fee must be submitted to BIOAIAC.
- Chaplaincy Exam: (1) Exams are divided into 4 stages (2) 2,000 word dissertation/thesis
- \$300.00 annual association fee must be met each year.
- Annual Gathering of the Chaplains. Location will vary and be announced prior to the date.
- Each Chaplain will receive each of the following items:
 - Sports Jacket w/ BIOA Logo, chaplain, and name
 - Badge with leather holder
 - License w/ cover (11x17 and 8.5x11)(Purchased by the Student)
- There will be three(3) Commencement Ceremonies each calendar school year.
- Acceptable Payment Methods:
 - Pay by invoice: BIOA Dept. of Financial Affairs will send out an invoice
 - Cashier's Check: to be mailed to Bible Institutes of America (318 Harris Avenue, Raeford, NC 28376)
 - Paypal: Bibleinstitutesofamerica@gmail.com

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Procedures and Order of Steps:

1. Complete registration and submit to Chief Administrator of BIOA
2. Interview with Board of Directors of BIOA
3. Complete all documents and agreements and sign. Signatures needed: Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Chief Administrator, and the Recipient
4. Submit Payment to BIOA of \$1500.00
5. Complete the 4 stage exam process
6. Completion of 2000 word dissertation
7. Chaplain-Elect will be eligible for graduation upon completion of the fore mentioned items