

# CHAPLAINCY ENDORSEMENT COMMISSION

## CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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### ANNUAL REPORT – 2011

Executive Director/Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services  
June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011

#### STATISTICS:

2010-2011 Endorsement Actions – 11

Army Active Duty	Jeremy Michael Rhoades
Navy Active Duty	Bryan Dove
Army Reserve & NG	Jared Dupont-Conditional Andrew Ramey Max Semenick-Decided not to serve Joshua Stone
Air Force Reserve	Michael Farar John Richardson
Hospice	Anna Butler
Hospital:	Deborah Clardy
Pastoral Counselor	James Byerly

Ecclesiastical Approval: Chaplain Candidates – 3

Army Reserve:	Joel Nielsen Benjamin Hitzfeld Cynthia Turner
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Unexpected Gains – 2

Duane Johnson is a Sheriff's Chaplain as well as a CAP Chaplain  
Larry Vollink is now a CAP Chaplain and a VA Chaplain

Losses – 7

Army:  
Jack Woodford, Retirement

Air Force:

Jason English, Resignation

Army Reserve:

Joel Funk, Medical Retirement

CAP:

Ivan McDanel, Resignation

Hospital:

Woodrow Rea, Transferred to Disciples of Christ

Prison:

Boyd Kuester, Retirement

Retirement Home:

Gary Gilbert, Resignation

Projected Losses in 2010-11 – 2

Army:

Frank Bruning, Retirement

Dennis Proffitt, Retirement

Current Chaplains – 121 – a gain of 4

Military – 60 – a gain of 5

Active Duty: 38

Reserve/NG: 22 – (Alex Jack transferred from AF AD to Reserve)

Civilian – 61 – a loss of 1

Veterans Affairs: 6

Civil Air Patrol: 11

Health Institutions: 29

Prisons, Police, Sheriff's Offices, Fire, Rescue: 9

Professional Organizations: 4

Urban Ministry: 2

Newsletters – 3

June 2010

October 2010

February 2011

Promotional Mailings – 1

March 2011: Memorial Day Flyer sent to all Churches

Travel and Visits:

Conventions/Conferences/Committee Meetings – 7

North American Christian Convention, Indianapolis, IN

National Student Conference, Evansville, IN

Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies, Nashville, TN

National Missionary Convention, Lexington, KY  
National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces, Alexandria, VA  
Endorsers Conference on Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy, Alexandria, VA  
Army Leadership Conference, Hilton Head, SC

Churches – 30

Nelson Christian Church, Bardstown, KY\*  
Chaplin Christian Church, Chaplin, KY\*  
Owensboro Christian Church, Owensboro, KY  
Westwood Christian Church, Ashland, KY\*  
Moreland Christian Church, Hustonville, KY\*  
Columbia Christian Church, Columbia, KY\*  
Dade City Christian Church, Dade City, FL\*  
Eastside Christian Church, Lake Placid, FL\*  
First Christian Church, Avon Park, FL\*  
Tomoka Christian Church, Ormond Beach, FL  
First Christian Church, Lake Butler, FL\*  
Kansas Christian Church, Kansas, IL\*  
Crestwood Christian Church, St. Louis, MO\*  
Oakland Christian Church, Oakland, KY\*  
Gethsemane Church of Christ, Mechanicsville, VA\*  
Church of Christ at Manor Woods, Rockville, MD\*  
West Corbin Christian Church, Corbin, KY\*  
Woodstock Christian Church, Woodstock, GA\*  
First Christian Church, Jonesboro, GA  
Macedonia Christian Church, Bonneau, SC\*  
Laurinburg Christian Church, Laurinburg, NC\*  
New Bern Christian Church, New Bern, NC  
Jacksonville Christian Church, Jacksonville, NC\*  
Geneva Park Church of Christ, Chesapeake, VA\*  
Real Life Christian Church, Chesapeake, VA  
First Christian Church, Roanoke Rapids, NC\*  
First Christian Church, Lynn, IN\*  
Hebron Christian Church, Hebron, IN\*  
Bettendorf Christian Church, Bettendorf, IA\*  
Williamsport Christian Church, Williamsport, IN\*

Schools – 7

Florida Christian College, Kissimmee, FL  
Milligan College, Johnson City, TN  
Emmanuel Christian Seminary, Johnson City, TN\*  
Johnson Christian College, Knoxville, TN\*  
Point University, East Point, GA\*  
Florida Christian College, Kissimmee, FL\*  
Mid-Atlantic Christian College, Elizabeth City, NC

Chaplain Official Visits – 43

Antonio Ortiz (CAP & Prison), Groveland, FL  
Frank Bruning (Army), Stuttgart, Germany  
Kevin Sears (Army), Garmisch, Germany  
Bill Robinson (Army), Bamberg, Germany  
Tim Wood (Prison), Marshall, IL  
Dan Spruell (Hospital), Decatur, IL  
Edward Sanders (Air Force Reserve), Quincy, IL  
Evan Horner (Pastoral Counselor), Quincy, IL  
Jeremiah Richards (VA), Asheville, NC

Anna Butler (Hospice), Johnson City, TN  
Lee Strickland (Applicant), Marietta, GA  
Michael Winsor (Hospital), Riverdale, GA  
Joel Funk (Army Reserve-AD), Fort Benning, GA  
Morris Lewark (Hospice), Columbus, GA  
Joe Shryock (Hospice), Swainsboro, GA  
Ruben Saldana (Army), Fort Stewart, GA  
Dan Moll (Army), At Army Leadership Conf., Hilton Head, SC  
Terry Larkin (Army NG), At Army Leadership Conf., Hilton Head, SC  
Karen Diefendorf (Army), At Army Leadership Conf., Hilton Head, SC  
Blaine Smrekar (Army), Fort Jackson, SC  
Mike DeRienzo (Army), Fort Jackson, SC  
Brian Murphy (Army), Fort Bragg, NC  
Mark Knox (Army), Fort Bragg, NC  
Perry Haagen (Navy), Cherry Point MCAS, NC  
Michael Bigelow (Navy), NAVSTA, Norfolk, VA  
Kal McAlexander (Navy), NB Little Creek, Virginia Beach, VA  
John Maurice (Navy), NAVSTA, Norfolk, VA  
Alan Snyder (Navy), Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA  
Dennis Young (Navy), USCG Portsmouth, VA  
Dennis Proffitt (Army), Fort Eustis, VA  
Craig Honbarger (Army), Camp Merrill, GA  
Dick True (Hospital), Anderson, IN  
Russel Jarvis (Hospital), Greenfield, IN  
Mike Farar (Air Force Reserve), Crown Point, IN  
Bill Ball (Hospital), Crete, IL  
Duane Johnson (Sheriff's Chaplain & CAP), Merrillville, IN  
Jennifer Bradshaw (Hospice), Mount Prospect, IL  
Jana Troutman-Miller (Hospital), West Allis, WI  
Jennie Ramey (Wife of Andrew, Army Reserve), Pekin, IL  
Don Williams (Hospital), Williamsport, IN  
Phil Weidman (Pastoral Counselor), Mooresville, IN  
James Phelps (Hospital), Greenwood, IN  
Edward Goforth (Prison), Plainfield, IN

Commissioner Visits – 2

Tom Stokes, Johnson City, TN  
Jerry Martin (Former Executive Director), Comanche, IA

\* Denotes having preached, taught a class or made some other formal presentation to a group.

**COMMENTS:**

The biggest issue of the past twelve months is the Congressional repeal of the Department of Defense “Don’t ask; don’t tell” policy. Tasked with implementing a change created by politicians and opposed by most military leaders, the Pentagon task force designed a new policy that will maintain good order and discipline and will be fair to people who, for religious reasons, do not approve of homosexual lifestyles. The policy has safeguards to protect our chaplains and I believe it is something our chaplains can live with. Expect further changes from the politicians, though, such as a repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). When that happens, our chaplains may find themselves facing moral dilemmas.

In November I attended the Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREB) meeting in Nashville. It is a national organization whose specific concern is civilian chaplaincies. I found it to be instructive and well

worth the money spent. I had the opportunity to dialogue with representatives of all the agencies who credential institutional chaplains.

Another new conference I attended was the Army's Senior Leadership Conference in Hilton Head, SC. Since becoming Executive Director, I was encouraged to attend it by all of our Army Colonel chaplains. The Army has also invited me every year. All our senior Army chaplains were there – Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard. Endorsing agents from almost all of the larger faith groups also attend. In the weeklong conference the Army's Chief of Chaplains office briefs its chaplain leaders and endorsing agents on trends, problems and concerns, new policies, and personnel matters. I received valuable, straightforward information about Department of Defense changes. Our chaplains were pleased that I attended, I was able to spend time with each, and I would like to become an annual participant at the conference. Next year our number of 0-6 chaplains at the meeting will grow; Bob Guy, an Illinois National Guard chaplain, was just promoted to Colonel.

Glenda and I have continued to travel extensively as representatives of the Commission. It is the best way I know to inform our brotherhood of the work of the CEC. Often I am contacted by potential chaplains as a result of our visit to their school or speaking to their congregation.

Because of a planned military drawdown in the Middle East, I anticipate fewer applicants being allowed to go on active duty. The Reserves and National Guards are still interested in new chaplains though. It is in the institutional chaplaincy arena where I see two good trends. First, ministers from our churches are increasingly interested in becoming hospital and hospice chaplains. And, second, I am contacted by local chaplains already serving with the police, sheriff's offices and fire and rescue agencies who want to be endorsed by us, not always because it is required of them, but because they want to identify with the chaplains' agency of our church. What a good sign!

I have been working with Tom Burbrink to get CEC registered with the Combined Federal Campaign so that we can receive contributions. The Combined Federal Campaign is the military counterpart to the United Way. Also, we are working to get registered with Veterans Affairs so that we can receive contributions from their chapels where we have VA chaplains.

I purchased a scanner and hope to start a long process of converting our paper files to electronic files. Also, I propose that we try to endorse applicants using scanned files sent to you by e-mail. Postal rates are expensive and a chunk of our budget is spent to mail applicant packets to you. Going paperless may not work but if it does we can save several hundred dollars and I recommend we try it.

This month I will be at the School of Missions at Lake James Christian Assembly in NE Indiana. I was invited to attend and will be given an opportunity to speak in one session. In September we will make a Northwest trip. I have been on the job long enough that churches are now contacting me and asking me to schedule a visit rather than me asking them, which I see as another good sign.

I am now into my fifth year as your Executive Director. It is a great ministry and I enjoy it, but I am cutting back a bit. To do the job, I must travel and I have to balance time on the road with time spent in the office. The biggest problem I have is falling behind in administrative work, largely caused by not being at home enough. I am learning to pace myself, though, and it is a pleasure to work with the CEC and its chaplains. We are truly impressed by the work we see them doing.

John D. Craycraft