

# Endorser Covenant Agreement

(Revised April 9, 2012)

The CHAPLAINCY ENDORSEMENT COMMISSION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND CHURCHES OF CHRIST pledges itself to use its powers to provide a prescribed range of endorsement services (1-9 below) to qualified ministers endorsed by it in order that they may engage in Chaplain Ministries. Pursuant to that goal **we will make a reasonable effort** through our agents and/or employees to:

1. **be an information resource** for members of our Chaplain Family about matters which might affect personal welfare and ministry, provide for communication networking among chaplains and relay chaplain concerns to various agencies and institutions which can influence policy.

2. **advise and assist** those whom we have endorsed to reach career objectives.

3. **maintain files** of all documents which we generate or receive, from, for or about the endorsees.

4. **schedule visits** to endorsees who are employed as chaplains, especially for Active Duty Military and Veterans Affairs Chaplains, for observation of conditions of employment, evaluation, affirmation of the Chaplain's ministry to commanders, supervisors and peers, and for encouragement and fellowship.

5. **respond promptly** to requests for re-endorsement as required for promotion, assignment to institution sponsored graduate level continuing education, change of military status or component, and to all other correspondence from or about chaplains.

6. **intervene** when informed that a chaplain is in trouble, and with vigor when it is determined the Chaplain is the victim of unfairness, injustice or bias, or is pressured to violate his conscience or the practice of his Church. We will also, when requested and appropriate, help the chaplain in transition into non-chaplain local and para-church organization ministries when employment as chaplain is terminated.

7. **promote** the visibility and recognition of Chaplain Ministries through participation in Brotherhood meetings such as the **North American Christian Convention** and the **International Conference on Missions**. We will publicize the accomplishments of our chaplains, also encourage Chaplains to write articles and news items for publication in Restoration Movement periodicals such as the CHRISTIAN STANDARD and for our NEWSLETTER, which is mailed to persons and congregations which support the work of the Commission.

8. **represent** the interests of our Chaplaincy by active membership and participation in such organizations as the **Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF)**, the **Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplains (ECVAC)**, and by maintaining contact with other accrediting associations for specialized ministries.

9. **contribute our fair share** of the annual budget by giving personally and by soliciting the support of congregations and individuals interested in this ministry.

Signed for the Commission:

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Executive Director/Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services

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Date

# Endorsee Covenant Agreement

(Revised April 9, 2012)

I recognize that Ecclesiastical Endorsement is essential to me as a minister of Christian Churches and Churches of Christ if I am to be accepted, retained and reach my career goals as a Chaplain.

I also recognize that the responsibility to endorse includes the responsibility, in some cases, to withdraw endorsement for cause, whether for the welfare of the chaplain, to protect the reputation of the ministry of our religious body or in the best interests of the employing institution. In consideration of my ecclesiastical endorsement, and for other valuable considerations a receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I freely and voluntarily agree not to pursue litigation against the Commission, for any reason, as a result of any withdrawal of endorsement by the Commission.

I further recognize that my cooperation is necessary to help ensure that my endorsement will remain a credible asset to me throughout the tenure of my Chaplaincy.

Therefore, I \_\_\_\_\_ **agree and covenant** with the Chaplaincy Endorsement Commission of Christian Churches and Churches of Christ that **I will make a reasonable effort to:**

1. **hold** myself to the highest professional standards of which I am capable. I will avail myself of opportunities to continue my education, develop my skills in ministry, and enhance my spiritual growth, so that my service will continue to represent the character, competence, compassion and commitment which are basic elements of pastoral care relative to my endorsement.

2. **contact** the Commission immediately concerning any personal problems or conflicts that could reflect negatively on my chaplain ministry. I will be open to receive visits and counseling concerning any issues.

3. **inform** the Commission at any time that my theological or doctrinal orientation no longer affirms the distinctive characteristics which serve to identify the congregation of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ which ordained me or the Commission which has endorsed me.

4. **notify** the Commission of any change in my family structure, military status, orders, location, assignment, addresses and telephone numbers.

5. **respond** promptly to Commission requests for reports and information.

6. **accept and coordinate** visits for the representatives of the Commission sent to observe and evaluate the conditions of my ministry, to interview commanders and/or supervisors, and give me personal encouragement and fellowship.

7. **contribute** my fair share of financial support for the Commission's Annual Budget to help guarantee that the endorsing service will continue for me while I am employed as a Chaplain; and that the service will be available for others who aspire to engage in various chaplain ministries. As I have opportunity, I will bring this ministry to the attention of congregations with which I have association, or where invited to speak, representing the Commission as worthy of support.

8. **remember always**, that I am called by Jesus Christ to His Mission; that I am a minister of Christian Churches and Churches of Christ, committed to its doctrines and practices; and that I am part of a Chaplaincy Family and Team Outreach, with appropriate obligations to each.

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Signature of Chaplain or Applicant

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Date