

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Hospice Chaplaincy
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1. What is a Hospice Chaplain and how do I know that I am called to be one?

A: A Hospice Chaplain is a minister that is called to be a professional spiritual care provider by a hospice or other healthcare system who holds the required ecclesiastical credentials, professional standards and education and membership in a notional association for professional healthcare chaplains, like Association of Professional Chaplains (APC). Clinical Pastor Education (CPE) is becoming the national standard for Hospice Chaplaincy. This includes, but is not limited to, (for the agency/health system hiring agency) the honing of one's personal pastoral and professional skills and allowing a more concerted effort for pastors training within a medical environment. This is further defined as a "need" by the hiring agency or health system involved. Lesser qualifications may required or requested by your local hospice scenario. The call to minister requires an in-depth understanding of and ministry to death and dying issues of patients and their family members and friends too.

2. What does a Hospice Chaplain do?

A: Hospice Chaplains provide supportive spiritual care through empathetic listening, demonstrating an understanding of persons in distress, death and dying issues and scenarios on a continuous basis. Additionally, they design and lead unique religious ceremonies and services, such as prayers, meditation and scripture readings, worship and observing holy days, sacraments, memorials and/or funerals, too. They also educate the hospice healthcare systems concerning the value of providing for and giving of spiritual care and pastoral rites. Lastly, they serve the specific needs of the patient, family members and friends, as well.

3. What training is necessary to more properly function as a Hospice Chaplain and where do I get it?

A: To become a Hospice Chaplain, you must either be a licensed or ordained minister or be seeking such a level of ministry through The Foursquare Church. The training consists of specific hospice chaplaincy issues and secular components of chaplaincy in general. You should be able to minister consistently to terminally-ill patients – with end of life ministry, training and experiences. Necessary training would be that of end of life care, medical ethics, and ecumenical ministry. Additionally, stress management could be helpful too. Training could come from APC and CPE (see above), when required, and/or local or regional training sessions could prove beneficial as one hones his end-of-life ministry skills. Your Hospice Chaplain Coordinator can help you establish your training priorities and plans. Also, attending the Annual Foursquare Chaplains Conference and Foursquare Convention courses can provide for additional training opportunities.

4. How do I get started as a Hospice Chaplain?

A: Start by checking with your local hospice agency/healthcare system to see if there is an ongoing program already established and how you can join it. If there is not a local program

available, work with the Hospice Chaplain Coordinator to get one established. Whether you are a senior pastor, an assisting minister or one who is interested in police work and ministry – this form of outreach may be for you. Also, you may be a local hospice person with additional duties and responsibilities as a chaplain. Contact Foursquare Chaplains International for the next steps for you to take to become appointed to a chaplain position within FCI.

5. I am already a Hospice Chaplain, but how do I connect with Foursquare Chaplains International?

A: Contact, Jeff Mink (see below) at the Foursquare Chaplains office located at the National Church Office in Los Angeles. He will then connect you to the Hospice Chaplaincy Coordinator and the Endorser of Industrial and Institutional Chaplains.

6. I feel a calling to become a Hospice Chaplain but where do I start?

A: Same as question 5 above.

For more information about Foursquare Chaplaincy, contact us at chaplains@foursquare.org . Comments about this document are also welcome.