

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

- Treats nearly 10 million veterans each year
- Employs nearly 1,000 chaplains.
- Hosts 25 Clinical Pastoral Education programs at medical centers across the nation Actively supports research in spirituality and pastoral care.

As a member of an interdisciplinary treatment team, each Chaplain ensures that the spiritual dimension of patient care is provided in every treatment setting. VA Chaplains provide ministries within twenty-five clinical specialties including substance abuse, post-traumatic stress and homelessness, spinal cord injury, hospice, nursing home care, psychiatry, as well as to patients needing general medical/surgical treatment.

BECOME A VA CHAPLAIN

VA Chaplains are appointed to the excepted Civil Service with generous employment rights and benefits. Employees may transfer to other VA facilities without the loss of benefits. Federal salaries vary according to locality. Minimum qualifications for appointment as a VA Chaplain are:

- U. S. Citizenship.
- Completion of a BA/BS plus a Master of Divinity degree or equivalent education.
- Three years pastoral experience after degree. Ecclesiastical endorsements by his/ her national endorsing body.

ECCLESIASTICAL ENDORSER, NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC.

All information regarding the Ecclesiastical Endorser process is listed on the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. (nationalbaptist.com) or contact Dr. Mitchell at 301-809-6025.

Dr. Nevalon Mitchell, Jr.



Ecclesiastical Endorser

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NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC.

Dr. Jerry Young, President
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*"Envisioning the Future
Exceptionally"*



**Chaplaincy Ministries
to the**

**U.S. Armed Forces, Department of
Veterans Affairs and the Association
Of Professional Chaplains**

**Dr. Nevalon Mitchell, Jr.
Ecclesiastical Endorser**

**Mrs. Kaye Mitchell
Assistant Endorser**

**Dr. William R. Boone
Executive Administrative Officer**

BRIEF HISTORY

The Office of the Ecclesiastical Endorser for the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc., has been in continuous operation for over fifty (50) years with the expressed purpose of endorsing and providing spiritual support to the clergy of the Convention. In 1995, the Office of the Ecclesiastical Endorser was transferred to the Home Mission Board by the President of the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc. The charge to the Home Mission Board (HMB) at the time was to expand the Chaplaincy Program to include pastoral and administrative support to our clergypersons, serving in these organizations.

VISION OF THE HMB CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY

To engage in and provide Holistic Christian Ministries and support to the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc., clergy-persons serving with the U.S. Armed Forces and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This will be done by supplying resources and programs that will aid in Evangelistic outreach and the Emancipation of people from the spiritual, emotional and social ills that prevent them from fulfilling their God-given potential. This vision is based on the Scriptural Foundation found in Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission); Acts 1:8 (Witnessing for Christ); Micah 6:8 (Establishing Justice through Love and Humility); and Luke 4:16-21 (Jesus' Platform for Mission and Ministry) ! This Vision will be fulfilled in the HMB Chaplaincy Ministry by endorsing, training and supporting chaplains.

- In proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- In engaging in Ministries which liberate persons in need.
- By offering opportunities for Spiritual Retreat and Collegial Development.

SERVICE

- **Preaching** -- As a minister of the Word of God, chaplains proclaim the Truth to thousands of men and women who need the leadership and guidance only God's Word can provide.
- **Counseling** -- As a counselor, chaplains contribute to the spiritual growth and wholeness of individuals and their families. The chaplain's office is field locations, hospital, confinement facilities, motor pools or anywhere a word of encouragement and solace needs to be heard.
- **Sacraments/Ordinances** -- As a clergyperson, chaplains have the opportunity to celebrate the sacraments and ordinances with the people of God.
- **Continuing Education** -- As a student of God's Word, chaplains are encouraged to grow personally and spiritually and to develop their pastoral skills through continuing education, periodic workshops and if selected post graduate studies at civilian institutions.

U.S. ARMED FORCES

Clergypersons are likely to reach people that no one else can. An Armed Forces Chaplain can do the same. Our military personnel and their families come from diverse cultures, faiths and backgrounds, and often respond more readily to someone of a similar life experience. Chaplains can bring a special sensitivity to their various needs. Many of these persons are away from home for the first time and in search of religious guidance or an encouraging word. They look to the Chaplain as a source of comfort and emotional support.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS

The U.S. Armed Forces offers Chaplains the same benefits given to all commissioned officers. To be eligible for the Armed Forces Chaplaincy, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States or One who has lawfully entered the U.S. for permanent residence.
- Be commissioned before your 40th birthday. (On some rare occasions this may be waived).
- Possess a Master of Divinity or equivalent degree, or have completed three (3) resident years at a graduate school listed in the Education Directory-Colleges and Universities or an accredited school listed in the Directory, ATS Bulletin, Part 4.
- Be mature and emotionally stable as well as professionally competent.
- Be physical qualified.
- Have the ecclesiastical endorsement of his/her national endorsing body.

If you are a seminarian, the Armed Forces Reserve/National Guard offers a Chaplain Candidate Program where you can assist an Armed Forces Chaplain and receive special pastoral training during the summer.

