

Fairfax County Community Chaplain Program Candidate Requirements



Upon request, the Fairfax County Community Chaplains will provide spiritual care and psychological first aid to community members impacted by the effects of a disaster or emergency. The Community Chaplains work as a part of an emergency or disaster team ~~and~~ under the directions of the locally designated incident management system and in cooperation with county police and fire and rescue chaplains and mental health personnel. Community Chaplains may be deployed to Family Assistance Centers (FACs), Emergency Shelters, ~~and~~ Office of Emergency Management Assistance Centers, and other locations set up in a crisis or emergency as directed. During or after an emergency, Community Chaplains will:

- Provide a pastoral presence
- Provide a listening ear
- Provide a sense of spiritual safety and security as well as a sense of healing and hope
- Provide a helping hand on the scene with basic needs such as food and water
- Assist people connect with next step resources
- Chaplains may not proselytize or conduct religion-specific prayer ceremonies in public, but may conduct private religion-specific prayer ceremonies if requested by a citizen.

To Become a Certified Fairfax County Community Chaplain, candidates must:

1. Be Ordained/Invested or Certified by a legitimate certifying body, and provide evidence of such
2. Complete a Fairfax County Community Chaplain application
3. Successfully complete a Fairfax County Criminal Background Investigation
4. Provide a letter of recommendation from two leaders of their religious community or governing body attesting to their pastoral abilities
5. Successfully complete the following courses:
 - a. Fairfax County Community Chaplain Orientation
 - b. Assisting Individuals in Crisis
 - c. Pastoral Crisis Intervention
 - d. Psychological First Aid
 - e. National Incident Management System Introductory Web Class
6. Agree to follow the Fairfax County Community Chaplain Code of Ethics and Guiding Principles
7. Agree to follow the directions of a Fairfax County Incident Commander, or Emergency Personnel during the emergency response and recovery.
8. Participate in a Community Chaplain interview with the Community Chaplain Program Development Steering Committee
9. Attend at least one Community Chaplain meeting a year, following certification.
10. Attend at least one Community Chaplain sponsored or recommended training per year, following certification.
11. Receive, read, and respond to Community Chaplain communications as requested.
12. There will always be a Chaplain on call. Community Chaplains agree to serve in this capacity for one week at a time for up to six times a year.
13. Agree to participate in "response feedback" opportunities to hone personal skills, deal with trauma responses and continue to develop disaster ministry proficiency.

