**APPLICATION**

FOR ECCLESIASTICAL ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHAPLAIN/SEMINARIAN

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

**MILITARY/INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINCY**

**938 MASON STREET**

**MEMPHIS, TN 38126 - (901) 947-9344**

**======================================================================================================================================================================================**

**Chaplain Carlos R. Bell,** cbell@cogic.org

Chaplain Endorsing Agent

INSTRUCTIONS: Please type your answers to all questions. Your typed responses (single spaced, using the Time New Roman 12-point font with 1 inch margins. If you need more space, use a separate sheet and attach it to this application and mail to the above address. Submit one complete application to ensure a smooth application review process. Incomplete or handwritten applications will not be reviewed. Allow four to six weeks for review.

For which position are you making application?**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

For which branch of service or institution are you applying?**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

1. Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Last) (FIRST) (Middle/Maiden)*

2. Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Street or P.O. Box) (City) (State) (Zip)*

3. Office Name/Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Office Name Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*(Street or P. O. Box) (City) (State) (Zip)*

5. Social Security Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you A U. S. Citizen?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If not, explain on separate sheet of paper.

7. Height and weight:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 8. Have you any physical defects?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If so, describe:

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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9. Any major illnesses?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If so, describe\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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10. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense?\_\_\_\_\_\_. If so, when? Where?

Charges?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

11. Birth date: Date\_\_\_\_\_\_ Month\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. Email address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT** - The data contained in this document is for use by authorized personnel. This information is not to be released to any person who does not have an official need for access and must be protected under the Privacy Act of 1974.

**FAMILY AND MARTIAL DATA**

1. Married?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If yes, where?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Date of Marriage?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Name of Spouse:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Do you live with your spouse?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If no, explain (Briefly)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. Have you or your present spouse ever been divorced?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If yes, explain:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

4. Is your spouse involved in ministry?\_\_\_\_\_\_. Does your spouse support your interest in the Chaplaincy?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If no, explain how you will handle the lack of support\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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5. If you have children, give their names, sex and dates of birth:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**MINISTERIAL AND SPIRITUAL DATA:**

1. Date of Conversion to Jesus Christ?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Date of Sanctification?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Date filled with the Holy Ghost/Spirit?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 4. Date called to the Gospel Ministry?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. When were you licensed?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Where were you licensed?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. When were you ordained?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Where were, and by whom were you ordained?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. Jurisdictional Bishop?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

10. What is your current affiliation with the Church of God in Christ:

a. Local Church\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. District \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. Jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you made previous application for endorsement for chaplaincy?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If yes, explain\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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12. Have you ever been disciplined for moral failures while a minister?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If yes, explain\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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13. Tell us about your ministerial experiences as Pastor, Lay Leader, Religious Education, Youth Programs, etc., with dates served and position title:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**EDUCATIONAL DATA:**

1. College and seminary training (please use complete school names).

*Names of Colleges, Address Attended, Major, Total Degrees And Seminaries; (From – To) and Hours Conferred. Please use separate sheet of paper and then attach the same to this Application.*

2. Please request colleges and seminaries to send copy of Official transcripts to the Commission of the Chaplains.

3. Have you taken Clinical Pastoral Education? If so, which Model?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Name other special training or experiences you have received to further prepare you for Chaplaincy.

**SECULAR OCCUPATIONAL DATA**:

1. Occupational experiences (list two or three most recent employers)

Employer Address Position Dates Served / From - To

**MILITARY DATA:**

1. Do you have previous military service? If so, give dates, branch of service, and type

of discharge. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Are you currently in a reserve unit? If so, give unit name, address, and supervisor’s

name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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Phone number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. I hereby grant permission to a member of the Endorser Office on Chaplains to review my

Military records when the Endorser sees a need to do so: Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. No\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**REFERENCES:**

**Please submit no more than three reference letters from your current and/or former Pastors, District Superintendent, Bishop, College and Seminary professors. Your Jurisdictional Bishop must provide a letter of endorsement. These letters must be sent directly to us from them. They must not come through your hands.**

***Have letters sent to:***

**The Endorser of Chaplains**

**Church Of God In Christ, Inc.**

**Military/Institutional Chaplaincy**

**938 Mason Street**

**Memphis, TN 38126**

**CHAPLAINCY ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS:**

**Call To Chaplaincy. Write 3-5 pages or 2,000 minimum to 2,500 maximum word essay. The following are to be addressed:**

1. Why do you desire to serve as a chaplain?

2. How have you prepared yourself for the Chaplaincy?

3. What do you do most effectively as a Minister?

4. Can you function effectively in a multi-cultural setting?

5. Do you feel that you can respect and serve in the Chaplaincy alongside all races, religions, cultures and genders?

6. How will you maintain your denominational uniqueness and tradition in a pluralistic environment?

7. How will you maintain your faithful relationship to the Church of God in Christ in the Chaplaincy?

**Pastoral Identity and Pastoral Theology. Write a 3-5 pages or 2,000 minimum to 2,500 maxium word essay. The following are to be addressed:**

1, Describe your pastoral identity?

2. What /who is the Church?

3. Define the mission of the Church and/or Chaplaincy.

4. What does it mean to you to be an ordained/commissioned Church of God in Christ Chaplain?

5. How does your gender and culture help you understand your ministry?

6. Does your theology allow others to practice their religious beliefs?

7. How does your faith tradition and key tenets of the faith inform your pastoral theology?

**Provide a written statement on your ability to provide spiritual care ministry. The following are to be addressed:**

“An account of a helping incident in which you were the person who provided help. Include the nature and extent of the request, your assessment of the issue(s), problem(s), situation(s). Describe how you came to be involved and what you did. Give a brief, evaluative commentary on what you did and how you believe you were able to help” (ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education).

**APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:**

1. All of the data requested above, plus:

**a. A recent photograph**

**b. A $50.00 application fee (non-refundable) payable to:**

**“Military/ Institutional Chaplaincy”**

**COMMITMENT:**

I make the following commitments to the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. and to the Office of the Endorser of Chaplains.

1. That I will continue to adhere to the doctrines of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

b. That I will notify the office of the Endorser of Chaplains within thirty-days of my notification of transfer of duty station, or assignments, to include date of transfer, location, address and phone numbers.

c. That I will provide financial support to the Church of God in Christ, Inc. through the fair share report program made through the Office of the Military/Institutional Chaplaincy Department.

d. I understand that the annual fair share amount that I am required to seed into the MICD may change as I transition in my career as a student, chaplain candidate, reservist, active duty and retiree.

e. That I will attend the November Annual Holy Convocation, and the Annual Chaplains Conference, unless hindered by significant job-related duties.

f. That I will connect with a local Church of God in Christ, Inc., and support its Ministry whenever and wherever possible and maintain contact with my home Jurisdiction.

g. I also understand and agree that all *confidential* information submitted on this application must be valid and any false/incomplete information given will cause this application to be denied.

**Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Applicant’s Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**State of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Notary:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**S**eal of the **N**otary

**My Commission Expires:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**MARRIAGE:**

**(A Proclamation to the Church Of God In Christ Worldwide)**

**The Presiding Bishop, the General Board and the Board of Bishops of the Church Of God In Christ, solemnly proclaim that the institution of marriage was established and ordained by God (Genesis 2:24).** Therefore “God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27). He created the “the woman for the man” (I Corinthians 11:9). Therefore, “marriage is honorable” (Hebrews 13:4).

**We Believe that since the beginning of recorded history, in most cultures of the world; marriage has been defined as the lawful union of one man and one woman. The traditional form of marriage is one of the bedrock institutions of most societies. We, therefore, affirm the preservation of the present definition of marriage as being the legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife.**

**We, further. Believe that,** “Children are a heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” (Psalms 127:3). In **order to provide for continuation of the species, God created within male and female the potential for bearing children. The first commandment** given to Adam and Eve was to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.” (Genesis **1:28).**

**Marriage between male and female provides the structure for conceiving and raising children. Compliance with this command of God is a physical and biological impossibility in same-sex unions. We, therefore, believe that only marriages between male and female, as ordained by God, is essential for the procreation of mankind.**

**We Believe that the homosexual practices of same-sex couples are in violation of religious and social norms and are aberrant and deviant behavior. We believe that these unions are sinful and in direct violation of the law of God in that they are a deviation from the natural use and purpose of the body.** “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their **women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what** is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which is due.” (Romans 1:26-27 NKJV).

**We Believe that legalizing such unions would signal ecclesiastical and social approval of homosexuality and sexual deviancy as legitimate lifestyles.**

**Therefore, in spite of the progressive normalization of alternative lifestyles and the growing legal acceptance of same-sex unions; we declare our opposition to any deviation from traditional marriages of male and female. Notwithstanding the rulings of the court systems of the land and state legislatures or laity in support of same-sex unions; we resolve that the Church Of God In Christ stand resolutely firm and must never allow the sanctioning of same-sex marriages by its clergy or laity nor recognize the legitimacy of such unions.**

**Candidate’s Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Church Of God In Christ, Inc.**

**Military/Institutional Chaplains**

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**Chaplain Carlos R. Bell,**

Endorser of Chaplains

**THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY STATEMENT**

The Church Of God In Christ, Inc. (herein after “COGIC”) is committed to maintaining a worship and work environment free from sexual misconduct and/or harassment practices as repulsive and adverse to the general well-being of its members, membership, employees, officials and guests. Sexual misconduct is not only immoral, but diametrically opposed to the biblical principles espoused by COGIC.

Moreover, sexual harassment, as a form of sexual misconduct, is illegal under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related State statutes addressing prohibitions of the same. COGIC adheres to Federal and State laws prohibiting sexual harassment and will take appropriate action to eliminate such behavior from within all of its components. Therefore, COGIC prohibits any of its members, officials, employees, agents or representatives from engaging in the above prohibited activity.

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*(Please Print)* Last Name First Name Middle Initial

APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“By my signature, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above statement, as well as agree to be bound by the Sexual Misconduct Policy.”

**CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**MILITARY CHAPLAIN REQUIREMENTS**

**The requirements for becoming a Military Chaplain are the following:**

1. Possess a BA or BS degree, with not less than 120 semester hours from an accredited institution; and hold a post-baccalaureate graduate degree with no less than 72 semester hours from an accredited institution.

2. Must obtain an Ecclesiastical Endorsement from your faith group/denomination.

3. Must meet the physical readiness standards established by the Military Branch. Be a citizen of the United States or have lawfully entered the United States for permanent residency.

4. Must be 21 years of age at time of appointment. No applicants are accepted at the age of 50 or above.

5. Pass Background Security Investigation.

**6. Completed two years full-time professional religious experience (to include performing weddings and funerals) after meeting educational requirements (for active duty only).**

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**Chaplain Candidate Program Officer (CCPO)**

Individuals interested in Military Chaplaincy who do not currently meet all of the above requirements may be interested in becoming a **Chaplain Candidate Program Officer.**

1. Receive a letter of approval from a recognized religious faith group.

2. Have a baccalaureate degree of not less than 120 semester hours from an accredited College or university.

3. Possess a graduate degree in theological or religious studies, plus have earned at least a total of 72 semester hours in graduate work in these fields of study. (The school is considered accredited if listed in the Directory, American Theological Schools, and Bulletin Part 4).

4. Maintain a satisfactory full-time standing under the standards of the graduate theological School in which enrolled and in any training program prescribed by their religious faith Group.

For specific questions, contact the Chaplain Corps Recruiter of the branch you desire to join.

**CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAIN MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

**Membership Requirements**: Church Of God In Christ Institutional Chaplain membership shall be limited to the following:

1. All Penal Institution Chaplains (State & Federal) who are ordained in the COGIC.

2. All Hospital Chaplains who are ordained in the COGIC.

3. All ordained COGIC clergy holding the position of Chaplain in an Institution or Business Organization.

4. A Special Membership may be granted to Para-Chaplains who work under the supervision of a credentialed Supervisory Chaplain.

5. All retired COGIC Chaplains who are willing to serve as mentors for active Chaplains now serving in an Institution.

**Educational requirements are:**

1. 5 years Ministerial Experience

2. Clinical Pastoral Education (1-4 units)

3. Ordination

4. Bachelor degree of not less than 120 semester hours. Possess a graduate degree in theological or religious studies, plus have earned at least a total of 72 semester hours in graduate work in these fields of study.

5. Ecclesiastical Endorsement (Commission)

6. Municipal (city) or State Certification

7. Pass Background Security Investigation

8. Be a citizen of the U.S. or have lawfully entered the US for permanent residency

The Church Of God In Christ, Inc. recognizes the scriptural importance of women in the Christian ministry. Therefore, recognizing the unique and special need for female chaplains to serve in the Military, Hospital, Penal Institution, etc., a special and limited ordination shall be granted to these women who meet the spiritual, ethical, educational qualifications required to serve as Chaplains.

In our denomination, Chaplains fall in the category of special ministries; advanced education and training is needed by the men and women who minister in these special institutions.

**The Church Of God In Christ, Inc. does not have ordained female clergy. However, a special dispensation has been authorized by the General Board for the ordination (Commissioning) of females to serve as chaplains. To be legally able to gain access into those aforementioned institutions and, more specifically, those selected areas where male clergy are not permitted, a limited ordination of COGIC female chaplains is absolutely essential. This also keeps the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. on par with our sister-denominations of our nation and even globally.**