

Guidelines for IACC Local Chapters

Every current IACC Member (Active or Board Certified) should seek to join an IACC Local Chapter that is in the member's local area. If there is not a local chapter in the member's area, please consider starting one.

Guidelines:

There are at least two dimensions in each local chapter – Fellowship and Continuing Education.

Fellowship

To paraphrase Emil Brunner, the IACC exists by fellowship as a fire exists by burning. At the heart of the Association burns a commitment to let the world know we are Christians by our love. The Association believes that God's love creates all pastoral competencies and defines all clinical interventions made by the Christian chaplain. Therefore, the IACC focuses first and foremost on sharing the love of Christ with one another and equipping each other to love the fields in which we serve. In this difficult time of increasing competition for careers in chaplaincy, the IACC holds high the banner of love.

Chapter meetings devote time for koinonia: to sharing needs, hurts, frustrations, celebrations, dreams, joys, goals, and confessions. Members share as priests to one another in an atmosphere of acceptance. The fellowship creates a strong communal bond, not a hierarchy of roles such as supervisor/supervisee, therapist/client or even pastor/parishioner.

Continuing Education

The IACC believes the chaplain and all persons she or he serves were born in the image of God and we are growth-oriented, despite the effects of sin/brokenness. We devote time and resources to refine our growth process as Christians and as ministers.

The IACC upholds the highest standards of educational excellence. The Association believes chaplains, as much as other ministers must "study to show ourselves approved" and that our pastoral excellence depends on both "testing the spirits" and rightly dividing the Word."

Chapter Meetings

The IACC's primary mode of operation is the chapter meeting. The chapter is the basic unit of the IACC, and each chapter determines its own schedule, format and structure. The IACC believes leadership is a gift and is given to serve the community rather than compel the community to serve the leader. The leader is always the first among equals, and the IACC chapters are completely democratic.

Chapter meetings center on **fellowship, education, receiving, and preparing interested members for board certification**. Each chapter maintains a relationship with the IACC through a **Convener**.

Chapter Conveners

Conveners guide and sustain members within a local chapter. She/he assists in developing regular and consistent meetings that provide fellowship, peer/professional networking and resources for continuing education.

The Convener shall:

- Elect officers such as **Assistant Convener or Co-Convener** who helps to facilitate meetings and to be a back-up in case the Convener is absent; **Secretary** takes and keeps meeting minutes; **Treasurer** is to be responsible for a small account and to keep a log of expenditures (optional); and perhaps a **Membership Coordinator** to keep an active record of membership.

The Meetings shall:

- Meet regularly - monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly.
- Each meeting should be recorded via minutes and sent to the IACC Central Office monthly or quarterly.

The Membership shall:

- Consist of active and board certified IACC members; student/intern/CPE chaplains, volunteer chaplains, and ministers in church settings who may be inquiring to become a professional chaplain.

