

What is the Ecclesiastical Endorsement

Endorsement is a professional credential that affirms to an employer that a person in chaplaincy is, or will be, performing a valid ministry of the church, and has presented evidence of calling and training for that ministry. Ecclesiastical Endorsement means that the candidate is a member or minister of the church in good standing and has completed appropriate training for the specialized ministry. Endorsement creates a covenant of mutual commitment, accountability, and support between the chaplain and the denomination or faith group organization. It states a level of denominational connection and a standard of excellence to the using agency.

Ecclesiastical Endorsement is the certification which permits the chaplain to minister in the name of the parent denomination. Furthermore, the Ecclesiastical Endorsement is the authentication by the denomination that the prospective chaplain is not only in good standing with the ordaining body, but is a person highly qualified to serve as a chaplain.

Ecclesiastical endorsement is required by virtually all government or public agencies that hire chaplains. It is required by most private organizations that hire chaplains. It is required for membership and certification in most professional associations. Some organizations require an update of the endorsement at periodic intervals. Endorsement is a significant step in achieving the highest levels of professional certification.

Most churches and Faith Group organizations have special agencies that deal directly with the issue of Ecclesiastical Endorsement. To apply for Ecclesiastical Endorsement contact your own denomination/faith group's endorsement agency.

Here is an incomplete list of these agencies:

- ▶ [Assembly of God Chaplaincy Department](#)
- ▶ [Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. Seventh-Day Adventist Church](#)
- ▶ [American Baptist Churches USA. American Baptist Home Mission.](#)
- ▶ [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Chaplaincy Endorsement Office](#)
- ▶ [Church of the Nazarene. Chaplaincy Ministries.](#)
- ▶ [Christian Church \(Disciple of Christ\). The Committee on Chaplaincy Endorsement and Services](#)
- ▶ [Church of Christ. Federal Chaplaincy.](#)
- ▶ [Church of God. The Church of God Chaplains Commission](#)
- ▶ [The Episcopal Church, USA. The Office of the Bishop Suffragan for Armed Services, Healthcare, and Prison Ministries.](#)
- ▶ [Evangelical Lutheran church in America. ELCA Office for Federal Chaplaincies.](#)
- ▶ [Independent Pentecostal and Full Gospel Churches. Chaplaincy of Full Gospel Churches.](#)
- ▶ [Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod. Specialized Pastoral Care The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod](#)
- ▶ [The Presbyterian Church \(USA\). The Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian. The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel.](#)
- ▶ [Roman Catholic Church. The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA](#)
- ▶ [Southern Baptist Convention. North American Mission Board \(NAMB\).](#)
- ▶ [The Coalition of Spirit-Filled Churches](#)
- ▶ [United Methodist Church. General Board of Higher Education & Ministry. Chaplains and Related Ministries.](#)