

May 23, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) will be holding its annual Chaplains Training from September 22-24, 2022, in Grand Rapids, MI. Our training enables chaplains to collaborate with their peers, receive spiritual renewal, hone their skills, and implement best practices within their profession. Chaplains' spouses are welcome to attend as well.

As the CRCNA Director of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry and an Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent, I require all endorsed chaplains to attend this annual training event as a condition of their chaplaincy endorsement. We consider chaplains' attendance at the training "mission essential" in accordance with DoD policy instruction 1304.28.

The theme of Chaplains Training 2022 is "Returning. Rebuilding. Restoring." Our main speaker, Dr. Danjuma Gibson, will share spiritual care and self-care concepts and strategies for navigating "brace space," which is a healing environment related to rebuilding from all that chaplains have encountered on a personal, communal, and global level. Dr. Gibson currently serves as the Calvin Theological Seminary Professor of Pastoral Theology, Care and Counseling; Co-Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, and specializes in individual and community trauma recovery. He is also in private practice as a psychotherapist in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Chaplains Training has unique opportunities for chaplains to inform civilians of the military's mission and unique opportunity to serve beyond the walls of the church. It is an excellent recruiting venue for military chaplains to share about their ministry to colleagues who are highly skilled, trained, and experienced. Military chaplains are also encouraged to preach at their local calling church, strengthening their relationship with the church that holds their ordination credentials.

Finally, several chaplains will present specific tools and practices they use in their work. These tools are unique and applicable to chaplains in many different settings. This enables chaplains to engage with their peers, find new resources, and continue their education after the training. Attendees will also be able to engage spiritual care tools for a variety of situations to provide meaningful and restorative spiritual care.

The CRCNA ensures that Chaplains Training enables chaplains to continue to serve proficiently and competently. We trust this letter will give you adequate information for you to grant your approval. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office: 877-279-9994 Ext 2388 or visit our website, [Chaplaincy and Care Ministry](#), to learn more.

Sincerely,



Rev. Tim Rietkerk, Endorser
Director of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry for the Christian Reformed Church