



August 14, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) will be holding its annual Chaplains Training from September 24-26, 2020. Due to Michigan's executive order and many employer travel restrictions, the training will be conducted virtually. Our training enables military chaplains to recruit for the military Chaplain Corps, collaborate with their peers, receive spiritual renewal, gain knowledge and 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 for their chaplaincy endorsement. We consider chaplains' attendance at the conference "mission essential" in accordance with DoD policy instruction 1304.28, authorizing chaplains to attend denominational training sessions under official TAD/TDY orders.

Chaplains Training provides unique opportunities for military chaplains to inform civilians of the military's mission and of service beyond the walls of the church. The training event offers 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 congregation that holds their ordination credentials.

The theme for Chaplains Training 2020 is "Come to Me: Sufficient Grace, Perfect Power, and Humanity." Chaplains provide adaptive, creative, and innovative pastoral care in the midst of an evolving ministry landscape. We will be led by author and conference speaker Rev. Mandy Smith. She will present two sessions focusing on pastoral leadership and healthy spiritual practices. We will deepen our understanding of pastoral care practice through the lens of Post-Traumatic Growth in a session led by Alida van Dijk, Ph.D., RP and Chaplain (Capt) Joseph Kamphuis. Throughout our annual training, military chaplains from across the globe will learn from one another in breakout sessions to share resources and best practices with one another.

The CRCNA ensures that Chaplains Training enables chaplains to continue to serve proficiently and competently. We trust this letter will supply you with adequate information for granting your approval. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call (616) 224-0733 or visit our [event website](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Roelofs".

Rev. Sarah Roelofs, Endorser

Director of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry for the Christian Reformed Church in North America

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