



March 16, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) will be holding its annual Chaplains Training at the Prince Conference Center, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from September 23-26, 2020. 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 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 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 who holds their ordination credentials.

The theme of Chaplains Training 2020 is "Gathered at the Table: Human Sexuality and Intimacy in Light of God's Mercy. Chaplains engage in a constantly changing landscape of how we talk about sexual identity. As we talk about intimacy, we learn from chaplains who are leaders in their field as they their experiences with trauma. We will deepen our identities through the lens of Post-Traumatic Growth led by Alida van Dijk, PhD, RP and Ch (Capt) Joseph Kamphuis. Attendees will also be able to engage spiritual care tools for a variety of situations to provide meaningful and restorative spiritual care.

In discussing human sexuality, several speakers will present on practical tools and best practices. Speaker and therapist Erin Poole will present on the language we use, and Jennifer Hawks, JD will talk about sexuality and gender identity through the lens of religious liberty and constitutional law. These sessions will enable our chaplains to learn new skills and implement new techniques in their work.

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 should have any questions, please feel free to call (616) 224-0733 or visit our [event website](https://www.crcna.org).

Respectfully,

Rev. Sarah Roelofs, Endorser

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

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