

Emergency Services Chaplain Training

- Course Descriptions -

Approved students may take as many or as few of our chaplain training courses within the basic and intermediate levels, and NIMS courses in any order they choose. However, we recommend the following order to get the most out of our training. Students wanting to take advanced chaplain training courses must make an additional donation beyond the application fee and the first donation.

Recommended Order for Initial Courses

- 1) Foundations of Christian Chaplaincy*
- 2) Introduction to Emergency Services
- 3) Introduction to Emergency Services Chaplaincy
- 4) Death Notification
- 5) Getting Started in Emergency Services Chaplaincy
- 6) Self-Care for Chaplains**

** This course is especially for those with limited evangelical, theological training.*

*** This course is being developed and will be available soon.*

Recommended Order for NIMS Courses

- NIMS 100, NIMS 700, NIMS 200, and NIMS 800

Basic Chaplaincy Courses

Foundations of Christian Chaplaincy — The purpose of this course is to provide the student with: 1) the firm assurance that they are indeed Christian and that heaven is their future home, 2) the knowledge and skills of how to write and present their personal, salvation testimony, and 3) the knowledge and skills of how to lead others into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe that knowing and being able to do these things well are essential to what it means to be a Christian chaplain. This course can become an excellent evangelism tool for the chaplain to give to others who are wanting to know how they can have a personal relationship with Christ.

Introduction to Emergency Services — This course is designed to introduce the student to the four major divisions of emergency services: fire, law enforcement, EMS, and dispatch. It exposes the student to the culture, terms, concepts, and operations of each division. It explains emergency vehicle equipment and operations and specific points of interest of each division, including its history and purpose(s).

Introduction to Emergency Services Chaplaincy — This course introduces the student to a variety of terms and concepts in emergency services chaplaincy as well as how this chaplaincy

ministry differs from other forms of ministry. Other topics include: the Role of the Chaplain, Ministering to and Relating to Responders, Ministering on an Emergency Scene, Ministering to Citizens in Crisis, Dealing with Death, Communications and Confidentiality, the Health and Safety of the Chaplain, CISM/CISD, NIMS, Evaluating Ministry Success, and the Uniquenesses of Chaplaincy Ministry in each of the four divisions of emergency services.

Death Notification and Related Issues — This course gives the student twenty-four suggested steps to follow in a death notification. It describes each one in detail, including the preparation phase, the delivery phase, and follow-up ministry. It also covers other topics including: Children and Death; the Deceased and the Dead Body; Embalming, Cremation, and Funerals; Understanding Grief and Loss; and Self-Care for the Death Notifier.

Getting Started in Emergency Services Chaplaincy — This course gives the student a brief overview of the basic elements of emergency services chaplaincy ministry. It gives a variety of examples of effective ministry to both responders and citizens in crisis. Its main purpose is to take the student, step-by-step, through the process of becoming a chaplain in an emergency services department. It leads them from “OK, I’m interested,” to actually being accepted as a department’s chaplain. Further, it describes how to begin ministry and suggests additional training the chaplain will need.

Self-Care for Chaplains — This course helps chaplains to understand the vital importance of self-care for chaplains. It begins by helping the student understand universal human needs, referencing foundational theories by Maslow and others. Then it addresses self-awareness and how to assess one’s personal needs. Other topics covered in the course include: Understanding Your Stress Level, Negative Effects of Stress on Chaplains, Compassion Fatigue, and Burnout. The course concludes with specific strategies for developing physical, mental, emotional, behavioral, and spiritual resilience while facing the many challenges of emergency services chaplaincy.

Intermediate Chaplaincy Courses

Introduction to the Fire Service — This course helps the student understand the basics of the fire service. The student will learn the history of the fire service, as well as common terms and concepts used within this service discipline. Other topics this course covers include Fire Service Personnel and Their Duties; Training and Safety; Tools, Equipment and Appliances; Ladders; Fire Behavior; Personal Protective Equipment Used by Firefighters; Water Supply, Fire Streams, and Hoses; Fire Department Vehicles and Apparatus; Fire Control and Suppression; Loss Control; Rescue and Extrication; Communications; Fire Investigations and Enforcement; and more.

Introduction to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) — This course helps the student to understand the basics of emergency medical services and pre-hospital emergency medical care. The student will learn medical terms and concepts, as well as the different types of EMS emergencies. Other topics in this course include: Safety and Protection; Tools and Equipment;

Legal and Ethical Issues; Human Anatomy; Lifting and Moving Patients; Airway Management; Vital Signs; Medical and Trauma Patients; Scene Size-up, Patient Assessments; CPR; and more.

Introduction to Law Enforcement: Part 1 — This course helps the student understand the basics of U.S. law enforcement. The student will learn the history of law enforcement, as well as common terms and concepts used within this service discipline. Other topics that will be covered include: key constitutional amendments and Supreme Court decisions affecting law enforcement; a description of the many federal, state, local and other law enforcement agencies; an understanding of the structures, training, and equipment used in law enforcement; and an understanding of the basics of law enforcement culture.

Introduction to Law Enforcement: Part 2 — This course is a continuation of its sister course listed above. (We strongly recommend you take the first LE course before taking this one.) In this course, the student will continue to gain a basic understanding of U.S. law enforcement. The course topics include some of the unique aspects of law enforcement culture, line-of-duty deaths, the basics of law enforcement chaplaincy, and law enforcement methods and procedures, including laws and statutes, crimes and criminals, crime scenes, and how evidence is managed.

Introduction to Emergency Dispatching — This course is intended for those who want to provide ministry to emergency telecommunicators and emergency dispatch center leadership and support staff. It gives insight into the operations of an emergency dispatch center, along with an understanding of its personnel, their training, and some of the stresses they experience. It addresses the history of emergency communications; terms and concepts; equipment; legal issues; and how to provide chaplain services to this vital resource in the world of emergency services.

Overview of Critical Incident Stress Management — This course is intended to give the student a general overview of Critical Incident Stress Management. CISM deals with prevention, intervention, and post-vention of stress and its effects on people. CISM is a comprehensive, integrated, systematic, and multi-component approach to crisis intervention. It can become a valuable and very practical ministry tool for emergency services chaplains.

Psychological First Aid: Providing PFA as an Emergency Services Chaplain — This course is intended to give the student an overview of psychological first aid, its value, and its application. You will learn the eight core actions that comprise PFA. You will learn how PFA is applied in the context of a natural disaster. From that knowledge base, you will learn how the core actions of PFA are applied to a variety of local emergency services scenarios.

Ministry to a Suicidal Subject — This course is intended to give the student a solid understanding of suicide and suggestions of how to minister to a suicidal subject. Some of the topics covered include: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Post-vention; Facts and Myths about Suicide; and Suicidal Progression. It also addresses the risk factors for suicide, warning signs, common methods used, and some DOs and Don'ts when dealing with a suicidal subject.

The Use of Informed Consent in Chaplaincy Ministry — This course presents the principle of informed consent as a viable tool for increasing chaplaincy ministry effectiveness. In this course, the student will study the biblical themes of *Blessing, Choice, and Empowerment* that provide the foundation for effective chaplaincy ministry. Specific studies of ministry methodologies in the Old and New Testaments illustrate the biblical themes. The course then addresses the topic of *Chaplaincy Ministry in a Restrictive Environment* by following cultural and legal changes through the years in the United States and exploring the limitations placed upon chaplains today. A study of *Chaplaincy Ministry Methodologies* reveals the pros and cons of various approaches to chaplaincy ministry. Finally, the course explains the use of informed consent in a variety of settings and how it can be adapted to chaplaincy contexts. It concludes with scenarios explaining the application of informed consent. (Coming Soon)

National Incident Management System

(NIMS/FEMA/Dept of Homeland Security)

NIMS 100 – Introduction to Incident Command System -- This course consists of a brief explanation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The student is asked to view a variety of Internet sources that provide a more thorough understanding of NIMS. Then, the student is directed to the FREE online course offered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. This FEMA course offers the student an introductory understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS). At the successful completion of the FEMA course, the student should receive a course completion certificate from that federal agency.

NIMS 700 – An Introduction to National Incident Management System -- This “course” simply directs the student to the correct Internet source for taking the FREE Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) course which introduces NIMS. At the successful completion of the FEMA course, the student should receive a course completion certificate from that federal agency.

NIMS 200 – ICS for Single Resources & Initial Action Incidents -- This “course” simply directs the student to the correct Internet source for taking the FREE Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) course which gives the student a more thorough understanding of the Incident Command System for particular types of emergency situations. At the successful completion of the FEMA course, the student should receive a course completion certificate from that federal agency.

NIMS 800 – National Response Framework, An Introduction -- This “course” simply directs the student to the correct Internet source for taking the FREE Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) course, which gives the student an understanding of the Incident Command System for large-scale emergency situations which have a national scope. At the successful completion of the FEMA course, the student should receive a course completion certificate from that federal agency.

Advanced Chaplaincy Courses

Introduction to Christian Counseling: Part 1 — This course is designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of Christian counseling. It is presented in two parts, with each part addressing different counseling topics. Part 1 provides the student with a credible foundation for conducting Christian counseling, utilizing a variety of biblical counseling techniques. It begins with explaining the role of counseling in chaplaincy, the needs of the counselee, personal qualities of effective counselors, and what constitutes biblical counseling.

Introduction to Christian Counseling: Part 2 — This course is a continuation of its sister course listed above. (We strongly recommend you take *Introduction to Christian Counseling – Part 1* before taking Part 2.) Part 2 of the course take an in-depth look at a variety of counseling processes and techniques. This course also describes specific counseling situations that chaplains may encounter, as well as suggestions for dealing with counselees suffering from depression, anxiety, anger, marital issues, and more.

Crisis Counseling – This course is designed to help the student to understand crisis and crisis intervention as they relate to crisis counseling. It deals with the goals of crisis counseling, which are: mitigating impact, facilitating normal recovery, and restoring adaptive functioning in the counselee. The course also addresses Understanding the Context of Crisis Counseling, Crucial Conversations in the Counseling Process, and Crisis Counseling Models (which outlines nine of the most accepted models for crisis counseling and crisis intervention.)

Understanding and Managing Conflict — This course provides the chaplain with tools for managing conflict situations. It explores the nature of conflict, causes of conflict, and the differences in how people experience conflict. It also addresses the dynamics of people in conflict and how personality types impact a person's approach to conflict. It presents a biblical view of conflict and the spiritual dynamics involved. Other topics addressed are: Conflict Dynamics, Styles and Dimensions of Conflict Engagement, the Nature and Use of Power in Conflict, Stages of Conflict and the Conflict Cycle, and more. It concludes with a study of apologies and forgiveness, and dimensions of resolution.

Introduction to Personal Coaching: Part 1 — This course helps the student understand and implement the ministry tool of personal coaching, a ministry activity akin to, but different from, Christian counseling. It begins with presenting an overview of the personal coaching movement, helping the student understand what it is and what it is not. Other topics covered include: Biblical Foundations of Personal Coaching, Mastering the Fundamentals of Coaching, and Communication Techniques for Coaches. (Will be available in the future)

Introduction to Personal Coaching: Part 2 — This course is a companion course to *Introduction to Personal Coaching - Part 1*. We strongly recommend that you take the initial course, BEFORE you take this course (Part 2). In *Introduction to Christian Counseling – Part 2*, we will follow up on information provided in Part 1 by introducing the Basic Christian Coaching Model and a variety of other coaching models, facilitating a broad understanding of the discipline. The course also explores various personal coaching applications as well as specific suggestions

for implementing personal coaching as an emergency services chaplain. (Will be available in the future)

Ministry in a Pluralistic Society: Part 1 (Pluralism) — This course helps chaplains to understand the meaning of pluralism and how it shapes our society. Topics addressed in this course include: Basic Concepts in Religious Pluralism, Positive and Negative Impacts of Pluralism, The Increasing Influence of Pluralism in the United States, and Dangerous Trends Promoted by Pluralism. The course then addresses religions of the world and various religious philosophies, concluding with suggestions for Christian chaplains regarding ministry among people of different faiths. (Coming Soon)

Ministry in a Pluralistic Society: Part 2 (World Religions) — This course is a continuation of its sister course listed above. (We strongly recommend you take the first *Ministry in a Pluralistic Society* course before taking this one.) In this course, the student will have the opportunity to learn, in some detail, the origins, beliefs, rituals, and practices of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. The course will also address a variety of other contemporary religious movements to further aid the Christian chaplain in providing appropriate and sensitive care to people of other faiths. (Coming Soon)

Family Money Management – Financial problems are the top concern for couples and families. This course provides practical helps in 1) managing attitudes regarding money, 2) making, having and spending money, 3) steps to better money management, 4) systems for better money management, 5) factors affecting money management, 6) pitfalls in money management, and 7) ways to save money. To see the table of contents for this course, click here. This course will help chaplains to better manage their own personal finances and to assist their ministry recipients to do the same. (Table of Contents link and the full course will be available in the future.)