

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Fire Chaplaincy
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1. What is a Fire Chaplain and how do I know I am called to be a Fire Chaplain?

A: A Fire Chaplain is a minister that is called to touch lives outside the “normal church setting”. The call is unique in that there tends to be a real burden for Firefighters and their families. The call also sends you to a mission field of the Fire Stations and Emergency Response Scenes that are very complex in their relationship dynamic due the culture of the Fire Service.

2. What does a Fire Chaplain do?

A: Fire Chaplain ministers to Firefighters and their families during times of great professional stress (mass casualties, line of duty death or serious injury, fire fatalities, etc.); part of the Fire chaplain’s responsibility is to develop relationship with firefighters (a ministry of presence and not pressure); be ready to respond at moments notice to a crisis and to assist at a fire scene in what ever capacity is needed; minister to marriages and families as the adjust to the demands of the profession; fulfill a secular purpose through being listening ear to the Chief or Rank and File, conduct Critical Incident Stress Management interventions, assist in conflict resolution, etc.; conduct weddings, funerals, memorials, station dedications, etc..

3. What training is necessary to function as a Fire Chaplain and how do I get it?

A: The training consists of courses that pertain to the ministry spiritually and the secular purpose component of Chaplaincy. It is important to continue to grow in your understanding and practical daily application of God’s word to be prepared to minister and counsel from the Word of God. In addition there is training that is specific to the Fire Chaplain that can be obtained through the Federation of Fire Chaplains Training Institute. The training consists of a four tier system, Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Master Chaplain. Additionally there are courses in Critical Incident Stress Management and Crisis Intervention that are important to have. Your Fire Chaplain Coordinator can help you establish you train priorities and plan. Attend Foursquare Chaplain Conferences to receive training and network with other Fire Chaplains.

4. How do I get started as a Fire Chaplain?

A: Start by talking to your Pastor and sharing your heart so that your local Foursquare Church can be a prayer support and resource. Touch base with the local Fire Department or Community Chaplain program to see if they have a Chaplain program currently operating that you can join. If there is not a Fire Chaplain program in place contact the Fire Chaplain Coordinator about how to partner with the Federation of Fire Chaplains to start a Chaplain program. If you are a Firefighter, career of volunteer and you have a burden to minister to your comrades you are already ahead of the power curve because you are in and of the

culture, just keep ministering when the door is open and be aware of the “Ministry of Presence”, and be patient. Connect with the Foursquare Chaplain Department so that you will be ready to be appointed to a Chaplain position.

5. I already am a Fire Chaplain, but how do I connect with the Foursquare Chaplain Department?

A: Contact Jeff Mink (see below) at the Foursquare Chaplaincy office located at the National Church Office in Los Angeles. He will then connect you with the Fire Chaplain Coordinator.

6. I feel a calling to become Fire Chaplain but where do I start?

A: Same as question 5

For more information about Foursquare Chaplaincy, contact us at chaplains@foursquare.org. Comments about this document are also welcome.