1. What is a Police Chaplain and how do I know that I am called to be one?

A: A Police Chaplain is a minister that is called to touch lives outside the normal church walls. The call is unique and there tends to be a burden for police officers and their families. The call sends you to a ministry field of police stations, accidents, crime scenes and other community crises that are complex and need your ministry of presence. This is an outreach into your local community with the gospel.

2. What does a police chaplain do?

A: Police Chaplains minister to law enforcement officers during times of professional and personal stress (accidents and fatalities, murders and suicides, line of duty deaths, etc.) and their family members. One must be ready, at a moment’s notice, to respond to a community crisis and assist where possible, minister to all levels and types of personnel at the site, as well as be available afterwards for spiritual guidance and assistance. Other duties and responsibilities may include but not limited to: marriage and family issues, first line counseling, weddings, dedications, and funerals/memorials. Other professional courses may include: Critical Incident Stress Management and Crisis Intervention and Ethical issues.

3. What training is necessary to more properly function as a Police Chaplain and where do I get it?

A: To become a Police Chaplain, you must either be a licensed or ordained minister or be seeking such a level of ministry through your local Foursquare church. The training consists of specific police chaplaincy issues and secular components of chaplaincy in general. It is important to grow in the Word and apply it to one’s life and ministry and to be able to do so outside the church, in a police environment. Most training is available through the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) and can be garnered in various levels of training and experience time: Basic, Senior and Masters training levels. This training is available at national and regional levels of ICPC. Your Police Chaplain Coordinator can help you establish your training priorities and plans. Also, attending the annual Foursquare Chaplains Conference and Foursquare Connection courses can provide for “additional” training opportunities.

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

A: Start by checking with your local law enforcement agency to see if there is an on-going program already established and how you can join it. If there is not a local program available, work with the Police Chaplain Coordinator to get one established. Whether you are a senior pastor, an assisting minister or one who is interested in police work and ministry – this form of outreach may be for you. Also, you may be a local police person with “additional” duties and responsibilities as a chaplain. Contact the FCI administrator for the next steps for you to take to become appointed to a chaplain position within FCI.
5. I am already a Police Chaplain, but how do I connect with Foursquare Chaplains International?

   A: Contact, Jeff Mink (see below) at the Foursquare Chaplains office located at the National Church Office in Los Angeles. He will then connect you to the Police Chaplain Coordinator and the Endorser of Industrial and Institutional Chaplains.

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

   A: Same as question 5 above.

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