



United Methodist Endorsing Agency

General Board of Higher Education & Ministry Division of Ordained Ministry

www.gbhem.org/chaplains • umea@gbhem.org • 615-340-7411

Military Chaplain Candidate Program

The United Methodist Endorsing Agency provides ecclesiastical approval for United Methodist seminary students to participate in the military Chaplain Candidate program.

The Army, Navy, and Air Force each offer qualified seminary students the opportunity to be commissioned as military officers and participate in chaplain learning experiences. Chaplain Candidates do not serve as chaplains; the program is designed to provide training and experience for those exploring a call to future military chaplaincy, either on active duty or with the reserve components.

Applicants must be eligible to receive a commission as military officer. Participants are paid for their training days commensurate with the military rank. Military requirements and policies are subject to change; always check with your recruiter for the current requirements and specific guidance.

Requirements for Military Chaplain Candidates

Endorsing agency requirements:

- Must be enrolled in a seminary approved for United Methodist students pursuing ordination: <https://www.gbhem.org/students/seminary/list-of-approved-seminaries/>
- Must be preparing for ordination as a United Methodist elder and be registered as a candidate for ordained ministry through your District Superintendent (*2016 Book of Discipline* ¶ 310.1.b.).

Minimum military requirements:

- Meet height, weight and age requirements.
- Be a citizen of the United States and be eligible for a security clearance.
- Be physically qualified for military service based on an examination by the military medical system.
- Meet other requirements, as determined by the military departments.

To learn more about military chaplaincy, always speak directly to a chaplain recruiter. Only chaplain recruiters have the expertise to guide you correctly.

Next Steps for the Chaplain Candidate Program

- Contact a chaplain recruiter to determine your eligibility and begin the military application process.
- Register and apply for ecclesiastical approval online at <https://methodist.smapply.io>.

The Chaplain Candidate Approval Process

- Complete the application form online at <https://methodist.smapply.io>.
- Write a brief life sketch (one page) and upload with your application.
- Upload a photo and academic transcripts with your application.
- Provide contact information for your DS and your pastor.

UMEA will contact your district superintendent and your local pastor. You will be set up for a personal interview with someone in your area that is an active duty, reserve or retired chaplain. The decision to grant or deny approval is based on all this information. The approval process normally takes 6 - 12 weeks.

Approval for the chaplain candidate program does not serve as an endorsement for active duty or reserve component chaplaincy. Future endorsement as a chaplain is not guaranteed. Chaplain candidates must complete the full endorsement process when they become eligible in order to be considered for endorsement as a military chaplain.

For further information contact:

The United Methodist Endorsing Agency

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