

“Bringing Hope and a Heart of Compassion.”

Mission, Vision & Objectives

Mission/Vision

To provide a formal training program to assist rural pastors in becoming incarnational leaders, and ultimately, Community Chaplains.

This course empowers rural pastors to meet people exactly where they are—in their homes, workplaces, and local hospitals. Through rigorous training and formal credentialing, pastors are transformed into Community Chaplains who listen well, love deeply, and guide others toward the hope of Jesus Christ.

Course Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Develop strategies to help rural pastors implement shalom, incarnational, and servant leadership relationships in their communities.
- **Objective 2:** Provide training in chaplaincy care and the theories of caring for people facing daily moral, ethical, and quality-of-life decisions.
- **Objective 3:** Develop an understanding of *Missio Dei* (the mission of God), which means “God is a missionary God.” This principle is the foundation of chaplaincy: “to go” and be among those who are hungry and searching.
- **Objective 4:** Develop an understanding of the community in which they will serve, including its economic conditions, infrastructure, leadership, and political landscape.
- **Objective 5:** Deepen one's understanding of God's calling and cultivate the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and ministry practices necessary to serve competently as a Community Chaplain.

Admissions, Prerequisites & Cohorts

Prerequisites & Application Requirements

Applicants must meet the following criteria and submit these materials:

- **Ministerial License:** Must be a licensed minister within their respective denomination.
- **Prior Training:** Must have attended the *Rural Community Outreach Training*.
- **Recommendations:** Submit one reference from a minister overseer/district official and three references from peer ministers.

Financial Investment & Travel Logistics

Pay-As-You-Go Payment Schedule

- **Application Fee:** \$50.00 (Due ASAP)
- **Orientation (Due by Aug 31):** \$300.00
- **Class 1 (Due by Sept 7):** \$300.00
- **Class 2 (Due by Nov 2):** \$300.00
- **Class 3 (Due by Jan 11):** \$300.00
- **Total Tuition: \$1,250.00** (*Does not include personal travel expenses*)



<https://s1.ag.org/16zy>

Travel Obligations

1. **Cohort Travel:** Students are responsible for self-funded travel to their specific cohort's community to perform the collaborative Class 2 community assessment.
2. **Springfield Immersion Travel:** Students are responsible for their own airfare/travel to Springfield, MO. Local housing/on-site costs are currently being evaluated to keep them as minimal as possible.

Spouses

If a spouse wishes to earn the Community Chaplain certification, they must submit a separate application and meet the prerequisite of holding a current ministerial license.

- **Spouse Tuition Fee:** \$625.00 (50% discount).

Cohort-Based Learning (Personal Learning Communities - PLC)

Students will be assigned to or may choose a Cohort/PLC. A cohort is a collaborative learning group that advances together throughout the duration of the course, meeting online or in person to complete shared assignments and community assessments.

Course Expectations & Requirements

Total Course Benchmarks

To earn the **Community Chaplain Certificate of Achievement** from Bakke Graduate University, students must complete:

- **Class Time:** 18 hours (online/in-person)
- **Cohort Time:** 10 hours of collaborative study
- **Reading:** 200 pages total (50 pages per class)
- **Book Reports:** 4 polished 1-page reports (1 per class)
- **Journaling:** 16 pages total (4 pages per class)
- **Engagement:** Active participation using the "Talk, Write, Relate, and Apply" framework.



<https://empowerchaplaincy.org>

Course Schedule & Detailed Curriculum

Schedule: Monday nights @ 8:00 PM CST

Orientation | August 31 (1 Hour Online)

An overview of time commitments, personal sacrifices, goals, learning outcomes, and logistics.

Class 1: Personal Assessment | Sept 7, 14, 21, 28 (Online)

- **Core Focus:** The Role of the Chaplain, Personal Calling, and Spiritual/Emotional/Mental Assessment. Aspiring rural chaplains evaluate their spiritual gifting, compatibility with rural life, and their clear calling to this unique ministry.
- **Logistics:** * In Class (Online): 4 sessions (1.5 hours each)

Class 2: Community Assessment | Nov 2, 9, 16, 23 (Online & Cohort)

- **Core Focus:** Exegete Your Community, Asset-Based Community Development, and navigating the Rural Way of Life. Investigates a pastor's responsibility to civil government, public officials, educators, and overall civic well-being.
- **Logistics:** * In Class (Online): 4 sessions (1.5 hours each)

Class 3: Community Spiritual Leadership | Jan 11, 18, 25, Feb 1 (Online)

- **Core Focus:** Transformational, Incarnational, and Shalom Leadership. Addresses realities of modern rural America (strong community ties mixed with systemic issues like poverty, economic decline, and substance abuse).
- **Logistics:** * In Class (Online): 4 sessions (1.5 hours each)

Class 4: Immersion Orientation & Preparation | March 8 (Online)

- **Core Focus:** Final coordination, logistics, and last-minute Q&A ahead of the onsite experience.

Class 5: Springfield Immersion & Commissioning | April 5–9 (Onsite)

- **Location:** Springfield, MO
- **Core Focus:** Community Chaplaincy Training (Professionalism, Protocol, and Practice). Training focuses on ministering outside traditional church settings (secular communities, workplaces) and serving people of diverse faiths or no religious affiliation.
- **Logistics:** * In-Person: 8 sessions (1 hour each) over 5 days.
- **Commissioning Ceremony:** Concludes the Immersion week in April.

Empower Community Chaplaincy Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Church Name: _____
Church Address: _____

1. **Marital Status:** Single ☐ Married ☐
2. **Do you currently hold secular employment outside home/church responsibilities?**
Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, what is your occupation? _____
3. **Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ:**
4. **How many years have you been engaged in active pastoral ministry?** _____
5. **What do you hope to learn and achieve through this certificate program?**

6. **Do you currently hold a valid Ministerial License?** Yes ☐ No ☐
7. **I understand and accept the time, financial, and personal sacrifice required:**
Yes ☐ No ☐

Show Proof of License
(paste your copy inside box)



Signature

Date

Email to:
Empower Chaplaincy Registrar:
ecregistrar@empowerchaplaincy.org

Make online Payments: <https://s1.ag.org/16zy>



Mail to:
Dr Kim Harvey
5517 Farmer Branch Rd #123
Ozark MO 65721

Make Checks Payable To: Empower Chaplaincy
Memo: Tuition



<https://empowerchaplaincy.org>

Peer Minister Recommendation Form

Applicant's Name: _____

Recommender: Please complete this form honestly to help evaluate the candidate's suitability for this intensive training program.

- 1. Length and nature of your relationship with the applicant:** Length: _____
Nature: _____
- 2. Describe the applicant's active commitment to the work of the Gospel:**
- 3. Applicant Descriptors:**
 - Provide a **one-word** descriptor (e.g., "The Hard-Worker"): _____
 - Provide a **one-sentence** description of their character: _____
- 4. Do you have any reservations about this person's ability to participate in a rigorous, multi-month training program that includes a one-week onsite immersion?**
- 5. Do you know of any occasion where this person has been accused, disciplined, or dismissed for moral, ethical, or legal reasons? (If yes, please elaborate):**

Overall Recommendation: ☐ Highly Recommend

☐ Recommend

☐ Recommend with Reservations* ☐ Do Not Recommend* **Please use the space below to clarify any reservations or add additional insights:*

Minister's Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Email to:

Empower Chaplaincy Registrar:

ecregistrar@empowerchaplaincy.org



<https://empowerchaplaincy.org>

District Official / Overseer Recommendation Form

Applicant's Name: _____

Overseer: Please complete this form honestly to help evaluate the candidate's suitability for this intensive training program.

- 1. Length and nature of your relationship with the applicant:** Length: _____
Nature: _____
- 2. Describe the applicant's active commitment to the work of the Gospel:**
- 3. Applicant Descriptors:**
 - Provide a **one-word** descriptor (e.g., "The Visionary"): _____
 - Provide a **one-sentence** description of their character:
- 4. Do you have any reservations about this person's commitment to complete a rigorous training program with an immersion trip to Springfield, MO?**
- 5. Do you know of any occasion where this person has been accused, disciplined, or dismissed for moral, ethical, or legal reasons? (If yes, please elaborate):**

Overall Recommendation: ☐ Highly Recommend

☐ Recommend

☐ Recommend with Reservations* ☐ Do Not Recommend* **Please use the space below to clarify any reservations or add additional insights:*

Official's Name/Title: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Email to:

Empower Chaplaincy Registrar:

ecregistrar@empowerchaplaincy.org

