

Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations



To partner with a Veteran /Military Friendly
Congregation in your community and to
see a complete list of all Veteran
Friendly Churches globally go to
[http://mca-usa.org/wp-
content/uploads/2015/12/VMFC-List-By-](http://mca-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/VMFC-List-By-)

*No faith has to emulate another faith...no
congregation has to act or have a ministry like
any other congregation. This is your ministry*



For Our Troops, Their Families, and Our Country

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Psalm 91 describes the security of the one who trusts in the Lord. Not only was it prayed by the psalmist thousands of years ago, but by countless men and women throughout history. For example, during World War I, the 91st Brigade of the Army prayed Psalm 91 together every day. Although they were engaged in three of the bloodiest battles in the war, these soldiers had no combat-related casualties.

Each Congregation can create a Veteran Friendly Program

- ◆ VMFC is your ministry. Use our guidelines, but make it your own.
- ◆ VMFC is a bottom up, lay led effort. The larger organization is here to help you.
- ◆ VMFC is customizable to your specific location and for your people. It must reflect your faith to be genuine.
- ◆ VMFC is your loving outreach to meet the needs of your own members as well as of those in need of love in your community.

*Veteran /Military Friendly Congregation
Ministry (VMFC)
is to initiate and provide
Hope and Resiliency for Veterans.*



Veteran Friendly Congregation

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What is the Veteran Friendly Congregation Ministry?

The Veteran Friendly Congregation Ministry's purpose is twofold. First, to provide a visible sign to those that visit the congregation that they understand and are sympathetic to the needs of veterans and their families. Second, to provide acknowledgement to the congregation and their leaders of their sincere and earnest efforts to support veterans and their families.

Why are Veteran Friendly Congregations Needed today?

Research consistently shows that clergy and congregation leaders, not psychologists or other mental health experts, are where people first seek assistance in times of distress. Eventually they then seek therapy from professional clinicians often with the help of their community of faith.

What is the purpose for having programs and ministries initiated by Congregations?

Each congregation can choose to implement programs/ministries that will qualify your congregation as a Veteran Friendly Congregation. The purpose of these programs is to keep congregation members AWARE of the military and their needs, and to use the programs to create an atmosphere of Acceptance and Recognition throughout congregations.

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan." Abraham Lincoln



The Veteran Friendly Congregation Involvement includes four (4) commitments: The congregation agrees to:

- ◆ adopt one or more of the Veteran Friendly Congregation suggested programs to implement from the VMFC Handbook.
- ◆ communicate the existence of the program (s) at least bi-annually by advertising the existence of the Veteran/Military Ministry Programs in one or more of the congregation's publications (service bulletins, newsletters, etc.) publicly to visitors, members, and leadership of the congregation.
- ◆ provide permission to the Veteran Friendly congregation organization to list their congregational information on their website.
- ◆ renew the commitment with the provisions above by sending a letter by 15 November each year to VMFC.mca@outlook.com.

NEXT STEPS

1. The Pastor should introduce the program to the congregational leadership for the Veteran Friendly Congregation Ministry.
2. Recruit and Assign (ask for a volunteer) a Lay Ministry Leader if leadership agrees to become a VMFC.
3. Sign-up up as a Veteran Friendly Congregation at:
VMFC.MCA@outlook.com
703-533-5890
4. The Lay Minister then Recruits a "team", "group", or "ministry" to begin the training process.
5. The team decides which programs to begin and/or enhance
6. Consider being a Lead Congregation and work with the Veteran Friendly Congregation leadership.

