



FLORIDA BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF CHAPLAINCY



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Process for becoming a DR Chaplain

Required: Affirm that you are a member in good standing of a cooperating Southern Baptist Convention church in Florida. You will also affirm that you can secure a written recommendation from your senior pastor for service as a DR Chaplain as needed by the application process. You must also affirm that you agree with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and will uphold the Baptist tradition of faith and practice.

Complete DR Background Check

- <https://flbaptist.org/disaster-relief-background-check/>
- Follow the instructions on the webpage. (Common questions are found on that page as well)
- You will be able to pay the fee via credit/debit card. This “must” be completed before you can be credentialed as a DR Chaplain.
- The Florida Baptist Convention DR office will be notified when the check is complete.
- **Thank you for completing your background check prior to attending training.**

Attend a Disaster Relief Regional Training

- Seven trainings are available each year throughout the state (Saturdays)
- See the training schedule for dates and locations here:
<https://flbaptist.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/DR-2024-Training.pdf>
- Take the “Introduction to Chaplaincy” class in the afternoon session.

Submit a DR Chaplaincy application.

- Find the application here:
<https://flbaptist.org/disaster-relief-chaplaincy-application/>
- **Be sure that the application says “Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Application” at the top when complete, click the “SEND” button at the bottom of the form to submit.**
- You may also print the form and mail to:

Florida Baptist Convention
Attn: Disaster Relief Admin.
6850 Belfort Oaks Place
Jacksonville, FL 32216

- FLDR Admin will receive your application and FLDR Chaplaincy will reach out to you.

Submit Spiritual/Character Reference(s)

Submit to address above or email to dr.assistant@flbaptist.org

Ordained persons: One reference from the pastor or another related leader. You can get a letter from your ASM or DOM if you are the senior pastor.

Layperson: Two references, one from your home church senior pastor and one from a church or chaplain leader.

Attend an in person training

Attend the new Two-day in-person DR Chaplain Training (14 Hours) and Operational Stress First Aid (OSFA). The OSFA (7-hour) class can be taken online, and a certificate of completion can be submitted for our records. You may also take a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) class, specifically, Assisting Individuals (13 Hours) or Group Crisis Intervention (14 hours) and submit a certificate of completion for our records.

- Trainings will typically be held in the summer months after the regional trainings (dates to be announced).
- Training days will be Friday – Saturday (14 Hours Total).
- Lodging (If staying at a host church) and onsite meals will be provided at no or low cost. (Bring toiletries and bedding, it will be like a callout)
- Cost of travel will be the responsibility of the student.
- Additional training dates may be scheduled if logistics, personnel, and student number requirements are met.
- Upon successful completion, you will be issued a Certificate of Completion.

Experience

- One week call-out experience with a chaplain or under supervision of a team Blue Hat.
- Upon successful completion of on-site experience, a chaplain's badge (mailed later) and black cap will be issued.
- Please inform us of any pastoral/chaplain-related experience you already have.

If you have any questions, contact Dale Simmons: dsimmons@flbaptistdisaster.org or 850-366-3076

If you would like to serve as a chaplain in other Florida Baptist ministry areas:

Contact Marc Johnston, Community Ministry Catalyst at: Marc.Johnston@flbaptist.org or check out the website: <https://flbaptist.org/chaplaincy> for more information.