



Ted Tromble
Chairman

**Chaplains
Work and Care Committee**
Report to the 40th General Assembly



Mark Ingles
Chaplain Endorser

Summary of Work, 2019-2020:

1. This Chaplains Work and Care Committee (CWCC) Report includes the associative work of the Committee and the Chaplain Endorser.
2. Approved 10 new endorsements for Chaplaincy (civilian and military). Four chaplains were removed for various reasons, bringing the current number of chaplains to 64. This is an increase from 36 in 2012, with seven more in the pipeline.
3. The CWCC expanded from six members to nine following the 39th General Assembly to address the increasing number of chaplains and related workload.
4. All endorsement application and information forms re-authored by the Chaplain Endorser, including new forms for Volunteer Chaplains. EPC Chaplaincy web page was fully revised and updated.
5. 2019 Chaplain's Workshop included 34 chaplains and 48 additional participants. Because its content is relevant to many ministry settings, the annual workshop is open to all GA attendees as a Leadership Institute track.
6. CWCC supported the Endorser's request in late 2019 to the National Leadership Team for an increase in salary and travel budget. A decision is pending.
7. Endorser is developing a presentation to be sent to all married chaplains containing various marriage enrichment and maintenance opportunities.
8. CWCC members Ted Tromble and Karen Bolte rotate off following the 40th GA. TE Brad Yorton was elected Chairman. Two members need to be added.
9. The Endorser accomplished 15 chaplain visits since the 39th General Assembly. Finances and the coronavirus situation scuttled some additional planned visits.
10. The Endorser continually represented the EPC, CWCC, and Chaplains in associations and conferences with which the EPC has affiliation. Two conferences were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
11. The Endorser was nominated and unanimously elected Treasurer of the Chaplains

- Alliance for Religious Liberty, an association of which the EPC is a member.
12. The CWCC approved the Endorser's proposal to partner with Rick Pierce, LCPC, providing sole-source administration of the MMPI-2 Psychological Exam.
 13. The Chaplain Endorser will pursue the CWCC's proposal to add the word "Chaplains" to the EPC mission and vision statements.
 14. The CWCC approved testing an information-sharing and social networking platform called "Glip" for use by Chaplains and the CWCC.

Recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly:

None

Work of the Committee in 2019-2020:

1. The Chaplains Work and Care Committee (CWCC) consists of nine members, both Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders, along with the EPC Chaplain Endorser. The CWCC and Endorser are supported by a designated Assistant at the Office of the General Assembly and the denomination's Assistant Stated Clerk. The military and many civilian institutions require their chaplains to be Ecclesiastically Endorsed by their denominations. Additionally, the EPC requires endorsement for all chaplains serving under the EPC, whether their institution in which they are serving requires it or not. EPC-ordained ministers and candidates under care of presbyteries receive EPC endorsement through the General Assembly's Chaplain Endorser, supported by the CWCC. The CWCC and Endorser handle the application, interview, and endorsement process, closely reviewing the qualifications of each applicant for endorsement. If approved, the Endorser sends the EPC Ecclesiastical Endorsement to the Chief of Chaplains Office of the appropriate military branch for military institutional chaplains, or to the necessary agency for civilian institutional chaplains—including those seeking Board Certification, entrance to CPE programs, and others. The CWCC and Endorser also provide endorsement for seminarians entering Military Chaplain Candidate Programs. With Endorser authoring and CWCC approval, there are now four distinct forms of endorsement granted by the EPC. When an individual applies for endorsement as an EPC Chaplain, they must indicate which form of endorsement they are seeking. These four forms include:
 - A. **Ecclesiastical Endorsement** for those whose institution or certifying body requires Ecclesiastical Endorsement.
 - B. **Denominational Endorsement** for those whose institution or certifying body does not require endorsement.
 - C. **Conditional Ecclesiastical Endorsement** for the purpose of applying for a chaplain position, as a requirement for ordination, transfer of credentials from another denomination as set forth by a presbytery, enrolling in a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program, applying for Board Certification, or entering a Military Chaplain Candidate Program.
 - D. **A Letter of Endorsement to Serve as Chaplain** that is provided for volunteer Chaplains serving institutions on a volunteer basis.

The CWCC's secondary—but not lesser—function is to partner with Chaplains to encourage, guide, and support them. All employed Chaplains endorsed by the EPC will receive regular, direct support from a CWCC member. Volunteer Chaplains also will be partnered with a CWCC member who will be available as needed for prayer requests, concerns, supporting information, etc. In addition, the CWCC and Endorser develop and implement policies and procedures for EPC Chaplaincy ministry and provides pastoral care for Chaplains and their families as opportunities allow.

2. Since the 39th General Assembly, the **CWCC approved the following Chaplaincy Endorsements**, bringing the number of EPC-endorsed chaplains to 64:
 - A. **TE Vanessa Platek:** The CWCC approved Ecclesiastical Endorsement for Platek to serve as a Navy Active Duty Chaplain.
 - B. **TE Daniel Ko:** The CWCC approved Conditional Ecclesiastical Endorsement for Ko to apply for Chaplain positions with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and State Correctional Facilities.
 - C. **TE Robert Stanley:** The CWCC approved Ecclesiastical Endorsement for Stanley to serve as an Army Active Duty Chaplain.
 - D. **TE Robert Olszewski:** The CWCC approved Transfer of Ecclesiastical Endorsement to the EPC from the Baptist General Conference-Converge for Olszewski to continue to serve as an Army Reserve Chaplain.
 - E. **TE Rachel Toone:** The CWCC approved Denominational Approval/Endorsement to Toone to serve as Chaplain for Montreat University.
 - F. **TE Timothy Slager:** The CWCC approved Ecclesiastical Endorsement for Slager to apply for Chaplain positions with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
 - G. **TE Paul Cochran:** The CWCC approved Ecclesiastical Endorsement for Cochran to continue to serve as Chaplain in his residency program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; to seek a Chaplain position in Senior Care, Hospice, or Hospital Chaplaincy upon completion of his residency; and to apply for Board Certification.
 - H. **TE Marty Carpenter:** The CWCC approved Denominational Endorsement to serve as a Volunteer Chaplain for the Sanger Police Department in Sanger, California, and to pursue other Chaplaincy opportunities that come her way.
 - I. **Seminarian Blaise Shields:** The CWCC approved Conditional Ecclesiastical Endorsement to apply for the Navy Chaplain Candidate Program (conditional pending coming under care of the Presbytery of the Midwest, expected May 2020).
 - J. **TE L.B. Graham:** The CWCC approved Conditional Denominational Endorsement (conditional pending ordination with the Presbytery of Mid-America) to apply for Board Certification.
3. **CWCC Committee Expansion:** With the increasing number of chaplains and related workload for the CWCC and Endorser, a recommendation to expand the CWCC membership from six to nine members was presented, approved, and implemented at the 39th General Assembly.

4. **Endorsement Form and Chaplaincy Web Page Revisions:** To improve the quality and breadth of the EPC Chaplain Endorsement process, the Endorser reworked all application and information forms for endorsement. These documents include new Endorsement Applications, Statement of Intent, Authorization and Release, as well as written and phone Reference Forms. Also, new documents were created to encompass the addition to the EPC Endorsement process for volunteer Chaplains, including an Information Form for Currently Serving Volunteer Chaplains and a Volunteer Chaplain Application for new Volunteer Chaplains. The EPC Chaplaincy webpage was revised to reflect these updates, as well as improving the page overall.
5. **Chaplains Workshop:** The Endorser accomplished a highly anticipated Chaplain's Workshop with 34 EPC chaplains in attendance and 48 additional, interested participants. Due to its nature, the bulk of the Workshop was offered as a Leadership Institute track, open to all General Assembly attendees. Numerous positive reviews were received following the Workshop.
6. **Endorser Salary/Travel Budget Increase Proposal:** Following the support and direction of the CWCC, the Endorser requested from the National Leadership Team an increase in salary and travel budget due to a marked increase in workload and the necessity to expand travel. A decision on this request is pending.
7. **Marriage Enrichment Opportunities:** The Endorser is developing a presentation to be sent to all married Chaplains containing various marriage enrichment and maintenance opportunities in support of maintaining good marital health.
8. **Committee Member Transitions:** Two CWCC members—TE Ted Tromble (Chairman) and TE Karen Bolte—will rotate off at the 40th GA. TE Brad Yorton was elected the new Chairman, and two new members need to be added.
9. **Chaplain Visits:** Chaplains receive personal visits from the Endorser, preferably every three years (at a minimum). The Endorser accomplished 15 Chaplain visits since the 39th General Assembly. The Endorser plans to visit 20+ Chaplains annually, but both finances and the COVID-19 pandemic scuttled some additional planned visits this year.
10. **Association Relations:** The Endorser continually represents the EPC and Chaplains in associations which we have affiliation, as well as at six professional conferences. Two conferences were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.
11. **Endorser Elected Treasurer of Chaplains Alliance for Religious Liberty:** The Endorser was nominated and unanimously elected Treasurer of the Chaplains Alliance for Religious Liberty, an association of which the EPC is a member.
12. **MMPI-2 Sole-Source Provider:** The CWCC approved the Endorser's proposal to partner with Rick Pierce to provide sole-source administration of the MMPI-2 Psychological Exam. Pierce is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor with HeartStrong Ministry in Overland Park, Kansas. Information about Rick was shared

with all presbytery MVC/MCC chairs for their interest.

13. EPC Mission/Vision Statements: The Chaplain Endorser will pursue the CWCC's proposal to add the word "Chaplains" to the EPC mission and vision statements.

14. Glip Networking Platform: Testing of a new information sharing and social networking platform called "Glip" was approved for use by Chaplains and the CWCC.

Other Actions of the Committee/Endorser:

Chaplains/Missionaries Partnership: Endorser Mark Ingles presented Committee Member, TE Dave Snyder's proposal for partnering with co-located Overseas Missionaries if those opportunities were available and desired by the Missionaries. Both Dave and Mark had discussions with Phil Linton, Director of World Outreach. Mark shared that Phil thought there might be some potential in Overseas Military Chaplains supporting co-located missionaries but that there was concern for the security of those Missionaries if seen coordinating with Military Chaplains. Mark emphasized to Phil that it would solely be Chaplains supporting Missionaries if those Missionaries found it beneficial and safe. That support could come in various ways that would be very incognito, such as providing ministry related materials and personal missionary support and more. Phil also shared that there are no Missionaries in the same locations of currently stationed chaplains; a surprise to the Committee. The idea was not shut down but shelved for further discussion in the months to come.

Chaplains Handbook Update: A working Committee was selected, consisting of Endorser Mark Ingles, TE Brad Yorton, and RE Bruce Alexander, for the purpose of revising and updating the current Chaplains Handbook. The plan is to have the revised draft done for review at the Fall CWCC meeting.

CWCC "Sexuality Documents" Update: A working Committee will be developed to update current CWCC documents that relate to the EPC's "Human Sexuality" document. Further discussions and review of the update will occur at the Fall CWCC meeting.

Final Remarks from CWCC Chairman Ted Tromble and Chaplain Endorser Mark Ingles:

Chairman's remarks to the 40th General Assembly:

Can you imagine consciously dying, bereft of the presence of family members? Can you imagine being barred from the bedside of your dying loved one? Those are brutal realities created in hospitals and care facilities by the COVID-19 pandemic.

When family members and personal clergy are barred from being physically present, Chaplains bridge the gap—visiting in-person when possible, ministering virtually when we can't, and facilitating virtual visits of family members and clergy. Every effort is made that no one is alone in their suffering.

Doctors and nurses are amazing, putting their lives and the health of their family members

at risk. Because hospitals have been emptied of “normal” patients and have been transformed into COVID institutions, many staff members find themselves called to unfamiliar work. Others who don’t possess particular skills are furloughed. Stressful times, sweeping changes, upheaval!

Within the 27-hospital system for which I work, at the moment I pen these lines 855 of our medical team members are sidelined on quarantine. Within the nine-member chaplain corps of my own hospital, one spent Holy Week on a ventilator in ICU.

At the time of 9/11, a chaplain at New York Presbyterian Hospital was asked how she was holding up. “I’m *not* holding up.” she said. Then there was a pause, as she took a deep breath. “I’m not holding up,” she repeated. “I’m being held up.” I pray that you are being held up in God’s mercy in all the ways you need to make it through these present days.

It’s a deep honor to serve in the high calling of Chaplaincy. And it has been a deep honor for me to serve on the Chaplain Work and Care Committee for these past six years, and the past five as chairman.

Endorser remarks to the 40th General Assembly:

Though this past year since GA 2019 was filled with many notable ministry highlights for our Chaplains, this pandemic has truly overshadowed all that came before. However, as Winston Churchill said, “Danger gathers upon our path. We cannot afford—we have no right—to look back. We must look forward.” It’s a great quote that centers around strength and the human spirit to endure that God has so blessed us with having and the courage that comes with it.

There is no question that everyone can use some words of inspiration during these unique and difficult times. Just watching the news can create panic or depression, particularly for those who are quarantined without others around them or an extended family/friend support system. We need to also hold fast that we have faith in our God. This crisis did not catch Him by surprise, and He is in control even when we feel like we’re spinning out of it. Be encouraged in knowing that.

Hearing the stories of our Chaplains during this pandemic season and the changes occurring daily reinforces for me that the work of the Great Commission doesn’t stop for a storm, a shooting, or a pandemic. True that the approach to it and how we transmit the gospel and God’s love, comfort, and peace to those entrusted to us has changed, the power of the Holy Spirit to help Chaplains do their amazing work, even in these most difficult times, and with many on the front lines, has not.

So I leave you with one final word, not just for these pandemic times, but a word that always resounds: *Hope*. In times like these, hope can be a powerful source of reassurance. Many who are locked at home, as well as others who are working to help and prevent the virus, need the reassurance and the hope that “we shall overcome this.” With humility and creativity, Chaplains and Pastors alike can bring this hope to all those we are privileged to encounter. I know its cliché-ous, but “Keep On, Keeping On!”

Committee Members:

TE Ted Tromble (Chairman), Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes
RE Bruce Alexander, Presbytery of the East
TE Karen Bolte, Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
TE Tim Foster, Presbytery of the Central South
TE Glen Holman, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
TE Jennifer Prechter, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean
TE David Snyder, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
RE Richard Swedberg, Presbytery of the West
TE Brad Yorton, Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest

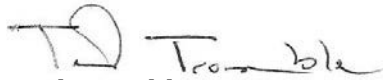
Chaplain Endorser:

TE Mark Ingles, Presbytery of the West

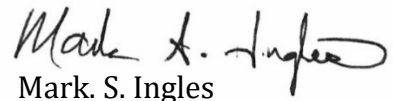
Committee Meeting Dates:

May 2, 2019—Video Conference
May 10, 2019—Video Conference
August 30, 2019—Video Conference
October 7-8, 2019—Orlando, Florida
November 15, 2019—Video Conference
November 21, 2019—Video Conference
February 24-25, 2020—Video Conference
April 9, 2020—Video Conference

Respectfully submitted,



Ted Tromble
Chairman



Mark S. Ingles
Chaplain Endorser

September 2020

Military Chaplains

Air Force Active Duty

Chaplain (Capt) Graham Baily
Chaplain (Capt) James Harris III
Chaplain (Maj) Jason Kim
Chaplain (Maj) Ronald "Russ" Ragon
Chaplain (Capt) Portman (PJ) Werner

Air National Guard

Chaplain (1Lt) Bill Jack "BJ" Newman
Chaplain (Lt Col) John Torres
Chaplain (Lt Col) Joseph "Marty" Fields

Army Active Duty

Chaplain (CPT) Patrick E. Cobb
Chaplain (MAJ) Scott Kennaugh
Chaplain (COL) Timothy Mallard
Chaplain (MAJ) Jeffrey McKinney
Chaplain (LTC) David Snyder
Chaplain (CPT) Robert Stanley
Chaplain (CPT) Nicholas C. Tyler

Army Reserve

Chaplain (1LT) Bryan Knedgen
Chaplain (CPT) Robert Olszewski
Chaplain (CPT) John Richards
Chaplain (CPT) Daniel Kim

Army National Guard

Chaplain (CPT) Jared Dilley

Navy Active Duty

Chaplain (LTJG) Vanessa Platek
Chaplain (LT) Robert Price

Navy Reserve

Chaplain (LCDR) Timothy Foster
Chaplain (LCDR) Brian Hill
Chaplain (LT) Joshua Schatzle

Veterans Administration

Chaplain Jason Riggs

Civil Air Patrol

Chaplain Ian Lamont
Chaplain (Maj) William Pawson
Chaplain (Lt Col) John B. Rhodes
Chaplain

Civilian Chaplains

TE Karen Bolte

Sutter Care at Home (Hospice)

TE Bob Claus

*On Call Banner Desert Medical Center (Hospice)
(Applying for Board Certification with
Association of Professional Chaplains)*

TE Helen Franssell

Capital Caring

TE Michael Guthrie

Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center

TE Milton Hines

*Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center
(part-time)*

TE Daniel Ko

Federal Bureau of Prisons (Applying)

TE Ron Pierce

Mobile Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

TE Jennifer Prechter

Arnold Palmer Medical Center

TE Scott Rash

Liberty Hospital

TE Ted Tromble

Aurora BayCare Medical Center

TE Michael Wichman

CoreCivic

TE Robert Barrett

Hospice of the Valley

TE John Bower

Hospice Chaplain

TE David Chambers

Family Hospice and Palliative Care

TE Bruce Clydesdale

Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission

TE Paul Cochran
*Mayo Clinic Residency and applying for BCCI
Certification*

TE Bruce Gimbel
Jericho Road Ministries, Inc.

TE L.B. Graham
Applying for BCCI Certification

TE Brad Kenney
Soccer Chaplains United

TE Scott Lawry
Amedisys Hospice

TE David Noble
Marketplace Chaplains (Plano, TX)

TE Doug Overall
Good Samaritan Society – Loveland Village

TE Jim Robinson
Crossroads Hospice of Kansas City

TE Daniel Situka
Vitas Health Care Corp.

TE Timothy Slager
Federal Bureau of Prisons (Applying)

TE Scott Steltzer
Summer's Best Two Weeks Camp

TE Dan Stewart
*Ware Presbyterian Village Presbyterian Senior
Living, Inc.*

TE Matthew Sullivan
The Covenant School

TE Rachel Toone
Montreat University

Military Chaplain Candidates

Caitlin Vera, *Navy Program*

Blaise Shields, *Navy Program*

Volunteer Chaplains

TE Marty Carpenter
Chaplain, Sanger Police Department