What are your next steps?

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’”

— Luke 14:28-30 (NIV)

Are you a discerning builder? Follow your discernment process to explore the possibility of chaplain ministry.

The RCA wants to ensure that anyone entering chaplaincy is fully competent in their area of expertise. We seek those with ministerial passion and requisite knowledge, as well as personal and professional experience, prior to endorsement. We expect potential chaplains to have a portfolio of sacramental ministry experience, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, and preaching. We also require Clinical Pastoral Education.

We raise the bar high because we want those outside the church to receive the best ministry possible. Prior experience in a church grounds you in the worship traditions of the RCA, provides invaluable leadership experience, and hones the necessary pastoral skills to minister to people in all phases of their lives.

For more information on RCA chaplains, contact the chaplain ministries staff:

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Serving beyond church walls

A large number of Reformed Church in America (RCA) ministers serve outside of traditional congregations. They are endorsed by the RCA to the specialized ministry of chaplain. This ministry takes place in hospitals, mental health centers, nursing homes, hospice organizations, college campuses, varsity locker rooms, police cars, fire stations, prison cells, aircraft carriers, and military barracks.

The highly committed and well-trained clergy serving in these unique areas carry out the ministry and mission of the RCA beyond the walls of the local church. Chaplains minister to those who may not otherwise sit in a pew or receive communion. They minister to people who represent a broad spectrum of religious preferences, and they facilitate the religious observance of others whose religious needs they cannot meet directly.

Chaplains almost always work in the context of a multi-faith team. RCA chaplains are grounded in their own theological tradition and have a joyful and unapologetic faith commitment, a healthy pastoral identity, and a sense of mission to those they serve.

A chaplain’s appointment and continuation in the role depends upon the approval of the denomination through a process called “ecclesiastical endorsement.” This assures that each chaplain is fully qualified to represent his or her faith group.

RCA chaplains minister throughout North America and beyond.