



Ordination

Most Chaplain students seek to be ordained as a Chaplain. A person who is ordained has gained official status as a Chaplain through a sanctioned process through education and commitment to Chaplain and ministerial functions, according to the ordaining organization. The word Ordained comes from the root meaning "order," and when in a religious context, when someone is ordained, they have been brought into that religious order or group of church leaders. Ordained is also the past tense of the verb ordain, meaning to invest someone with such authority. Ordained Chaplains have a number of responsibilities and are expected to reflect and model the faith which they profess and teach. Simply stated, an Ordained Chaplain has been recognized by a governing body to have the skills and values necessary to perform the tasks that Chaplains are called to. Each organization has specific tasks and guidelines that must be achieved to be able to attain the Ordination and perform the unique functions set aside for Chaplains. Traditionally, to be ordained a person must be baptized, of good moral character, and convinced that they have a divine calling to the position. Living Shield Ministries believes that: *A Chaplain is a spiritually-called, crisis management trained minister who is certified and ordained by a chaplaincy organization and endorsed by their church. The chaplain's primary role is to provide emotional and spiritual care to people in crisis, in their place of crisis. Simply stated, an Ordained Chaplain has been recognized by a governing body to have the skills and values necessary to perform the tasks to which Chaplains are called. Chaplains are appointed to serve in various institutions such as schools, prisons, hospitals & other organizations that require their skills.*

Chaplaincy is looked at as a Samaritan ministry because a chaplain serves outside the walls of the church. Chaplains are appointed to serve in various secular institutions such as schools, prisons, hospitals, hospices, law enforcement agencies, fire departments and other organizations that require their skills. Simply stated, an Ordained Chaplain has been recognized by a governing body to have the skills and values necessary to perform specific tasks within the secular community.

Living Shield Ministries Chaplains are ordained to do the following: 1) To be a force-multiplier to the organization they are serving. 2) Respond to disasters when called upon, 3) Provide emotional and spiritual care (staying within their realm of training) to individuals who are in a state of crisis resulting from trauma and/or loss, 4) Provide Biblical instruction to those who seek it, 5) Officiate weddings and funerals.

Living Shield Ministries ordination does not allow the individual to oversee or have authority over a church or any ecclesiastical organization. To achieve the required skills, and to apply for ordination, LSM has identified several courses that a student is required to attend and master the skills. These courses are:

1. School of Chaplaincy (5-day)
2. Ministering to the Suffering (2-day)
3. The Grip of Grief & Trauma (2-day)
4. Crisis of Faith or Cry of Distress (2-day)
5. Providing & Applying Self (1 day)

At the completion of these courses, a student is required to have a Pastoral Recommendation. Their pastor must read and agree with LSM's Statement of Faith, Canon of Ethics, and Principles of Chaplaincy, and show so by signing. Pastor must also fill out the Pastoral Recommendation Request attached to this packet indicating that the student is actively involved in their church and that they believe that the person is well suited to be ordained as a Chaplain. In addition, applicant must successfully complete a background check. Upon completion of these items, LSM will ordain a person as a Chaplain, having met and demonstrated the required skills. The student will then be awarded a Certificate of Ordination, which must be renewed every 5 years as of 2026.

Living Shield Ministries ordination does not allow the individual to oversee/have authority over a church/ecclesiastical organization.

Left Blank Intentionally
(for your use)

Ordination—Steps to Follow

PLEASE READ & FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS

Step One

Complete the required courses for Ordination.

Step Two

Complete this ordination package.

Be sure to sign the pages that ask for an Agreement.

Please **initial each page in the upper right-hand corner to show that you have read it.**

Step Three

Send the required forms to your Pastor. He will then need to sign it and mail all of it to Living Shield Ministries

Step Four

Submit the Background Check. Please follow the instructions on pages 4-5.

The cost for the Background Check is \$150.00.

Step Five

Send **your ENTIRE PACKET (NOT JUST the signed and/or initialed pages)** to:

Living Shield Ministries.

PO Box 2736

Riverside, CA 92516

No one will be considered ordained until Living Shield Ministries receives the information from you, your Pastor, and People Facts (Background Check). Your application and all other information will be reviewed, and a personal interview may be required.

Step Six

Wait for notification from Living Shield Ministries that All paperwork has been received and processed.

Step Seven

You will be sent an email letting you know that your background check was approved and that your Ordination Certificate is being mailed to you. Make an electronic copy of the certificate to keep for safekeeping.

Ordination—Checklist

Profile Checklist

Your Chaplaincy Ordination packet must include all required documentation listed on this checklist. Please **DO NOT** submit incomplete packets. **Send the entire Ordination Packet (excluding the Pastors portion) back to Living Shield Ministries.**

Please return this checklist with your application.

Use this checklist to ensure all components are complete and sent as one COMPLETE unit. As each section is completed initial next to the corresponding form.

INITIALS	FORM	DESCRIPTION
	A	Copy of Course Certificates of Completion
	B	Completed Ordination Application
	C	Background Check Authorization Form to Living Shield Ministries
	D	Personal References
	E	Working with Minors
	F	Chaplain Code of Ethics (read and signed)
	G	Principles of Chaplaincy (read and signed)
	H	Statement of Faith (read and signed)

Additional Required Paperwork

	A passport size photo (electronic) emailed to contact@livingshield.org Subject Line Example: Ordination Photo for Doe, John
--	---

National Criminal History Check—Instructions and Payment Options

People Facts

Employment Screening and Background Checks

Your License or Ordination requires a national (not local or state) criminal history report. People Facts will be conducting the background check.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Complete and sign the Authorization Form (page 6) allowing People Facts to perform your Background Check.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

1) *US Mail . . .*

Submit a check for \$150.00 to Living Shield Ministries. On the Memo line of your check, please write PF Background Check

- a. Mail check with your Authorization Form to:
Living Shield Ministries, PO Box 2736, Riverside, CA 92516
- b. As soon as Living Shield Ministries receives your check and authorization, it will request People Facts to begin the background check.

2) *On-Line*

Go to www.livingshield.org/donate/ and donate \$150.00. Make a note on the page that this is for a Background Check.

- a. Mail your Authorization Form separately to Living Shield Ministries.
- b. Once Living Shield Ministries has received both the Authorization Form and the \$150.00, it will request People Facts to begin the Background Check.

Note: Living Shield does not take credit cards other than through the Living Shield website.

Profile

Form B

We are glad you desire to become Ordained through Living Shield Ministries. We need to collect some personal information for this to take place. All information on this form will be kept strictly confidential, in a secure location, and will not be released without your permission.

Contact Information

First Name	Last Name	Middle Name
Nickname or Maiden Name	E-Mail	Gender (circle one) Male Female
Street Address	City, State, Zip	Date of Birth
Home Phone	Work Phone	Mobile Phone

Experience

Work Experience (past 10 years)

Employer 1	Role	Length of Service Date: From ___/___/___ to ___/___/___
Street Address	City, State, Zip	Phone #
Contact Person		
Employer 2	Role	Length of Service Date: From ___/___/___ to ___/___/___
Street Address	City, State, Zip	Phone #
Contact Person		

Education

College	College Phone Number	Date: From ___/___/___ to ___/___/___ Last Name while attending _____
Street Address	City, State, Zip	Major: Degree: Associate / Bachelor / Master

Skills

Please list any special skills, abilities, or languages that may be used in your volunteer experience

On a separate sheet of paper . . . please list any **additional college(s)** you have attended / **address** of the college(s) / **phone#** to the college(s) / your **major** / any **Degree** you received / **date** of graduation / your **last name** while attending college.

Profile

Form B - (Continued)

Personal Information

Marital Status (circle one)

Single Engaged Married Separated Divorced Widowed

Spouses First Name

Spouses Last Name

Church Involvement

What is Your Religious Affiliation?

What is Your House of Worship?

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Date First Attended:

Month _____ Year _____

Date last Attended:

Month _____ Year _____

Emergency Contact Information

First Name

Last Name

Middle Name

Relationship

Home Phone

Work Phone

Mobile Phone

Working with Minors—Guidelines

Form C

Name: _____
(As it appears on your driver's license or id)

We are glad you desire to become Ordained through Living Shield Ministries. Some personal information is needed for this to take place. All information on this form will be kept strictly confidential, in a secure location, and will not be released without your permission.

All fields on this form are required.

Relationship Parameters with Minors

Relationship building, involvement, and contact with Living Shield Ministries and its participants are to be conducted within the Relationship parameters applicable to all Living Shield Ministries sponsored events. Exceptions may be granted for a specific event and are only made by Living Shield Ministries staff prior to the event in question.

1. _____ (Initial) . . . Chaplains ordained by Living Shield Ministries are never allowed to have contact with minors individually or in groups outside of an event without authorization from Living Shield Ministries. This includes communication in person, email, instant messaging, text messaging, letters, phone, etc.
2. _____ (Initial) . . . Chaplains ordained by Living Shield Ministries are never allowed to have one-on-one interaction with any minor, regardless of age or sex. There must be a minimum of three people present at all times (the third person cannot be another minor).

Pending prior authorization, my involvement and contact with children at any Living Shield Ministries event will be conducted within the pre-existing terms already established. I realize that any contact with children outside of the constraints of the Living Shield Ministries Relationship Parameters, or following my service, or termination from any Living Shield Ministries event could easily be misinterpreted by the child and his/her parents as still related to Living Shield Ministries. Should an accident or mishap occur in those circumstances, this confusion could possibly expose Living Shield Ministries and its staff to potential litigation and possibly jeopardize the ministry. Therefore, no contact is authorized without explicit permission from authorized Living Shield Ministries staff.

Behavior Guidelines

1. _____ (Initial) . . . During any Living Shield Ministries event, I agree to: respect, cooperate with and follow the directions of the leadership of Living Shield Ministries; abstain from smoking, the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, and profanity; respect the personal property and space of others; use proper restraint in my conduct and attitude, and abide by all the event rules.
2. _____ (Initial) . . . I understand and agree that if I violate this Agreement in any way I:
 - a. May be subject to immediate dismissal from the current event and possibly lose my privileges to participate in any future Living Shield Ministries event(s); and
 - b. At my own expense, will reimburse, indemnify, defend and hold Living Shield Ministries, employees, and volunteers harmless from any cost, expense, obligation, claim, or liability resulting from such violation.

Working with Minors—Waiver and Release

Form C – (Continued)

Volunteer Consent Waiver and Release

1. _____ (Initial) . . . In case of any medical emergency occurring while volunteering with Living Shield Ministries, in which personal judgment is impaired, I authorize approved and authorized Living Shield Ministries leadership to act as my agent to sign for consent to an anesthetic, medical, dental X-Ray, surgical diagnosis, or treatment and hospital care for me which is deemed advisable by them. This is to be rendered under the general or special supervision of any physician or surgeon, licensed under the provision of the Medical Practice Act, or any dentist, at a hospital, or anywhere else. This authorization will remain in effect while I am enroute to and from, or involved in or participating in, any Living Shield Ministries program or event, unless revoked in writing by me and delivered to an approved authorized leader of Living Shield Ministries.
2. _____ (Initial) . . . I release and hold harmless Living Shield Ministries, its employees, volunteers, and any event facility from all actions, damages, or personal injuries which may occur. I understand in the event of a minor injury I may receive first aid treatment. If my personal judgment is impaired, I authorize event leaders to take whatever action is necessary for my personal safety and health.
3. _____ (Initial) . . . I give consent that photographs, and audio/video recordings during the event may be used by Living Shield Ministries for training, promotion, marketing and fundraising.

My signature on this document confirms my understanding and agreement with the above statements and to my knowledge, the information contained in the Working with Minors is true and correct. A copy of this document is available upon request.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Personal / Business References

Form D

Name: _____
(As it appears on your driver's license or id)

The applicant must be willing to provide three (3) references that are familiar with your work and/or volunteer experience. **(clergy / chaplain / businessman / personal friend)**

Reference #1		Relationship of Applicant
Name	E-Mail	
Street Address	City, State, Zip	
Phone (Home)	Phone (Cell)	

Reference #2		Relationship of Applicant
Name	E-Mail	
Street Address	City, State, Zip	
Phone (Home)	Phone (Cell)	

Reference #3		Relationship of Applicant
Name	E-Mail	
Street Address	City, State, Zip	
Phone (Home)	Phone (Cell)	

I authorize Living Shield Ministries to contact any references listed herein to verify all information and to obtain any and all information related to my character and volunteer performance. I release all listed references from any liability for information provided in good faith. I waive any rights to inspect information provided about me by any person or organization identified by me in this application or reference checks. My signature on this document confirms my understanding and agreement with the above statements and to my knowledge, the information contained in this Reference Sheet is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Form F

Preamble — I dedicate myself to conducting my ministry according to the ethical guidelines and principles set forth in this code of ethics, in order that my ministry may be acceptable to God, my service beneficial to the Faith community, and my life as a witness to the world.

I. RESPONSIBILITIES TO SELF

- I will nurture my devotional life through prayer and meditation.
- I will maintain my physical and emotional health through regular exercise, good eating habits, and the proper care of my body.
- I will continue to grow intellectually through personal study, comprehensive reading, and attending growth conferences.
- I will manage my time well by properly balancing personal obligations, religious duties, and family responsibilities, and by observing a weekly day off and an annual vacation.
- I will be honest and responsible in my finances by paying all debts on time, never seeking special gratuities or privileges, giving generously to worthwhile causes, and living a Godly lifestyle.
- I will be truthful in my speech, never plagiarizing another's work, exaggerating the facts, misusing personal experiences, or communicating gossip.
- I will seek to be Spiritual in attitude and action toward all persons regardless of race, social class, religious beliefs, or position of influence within the church and community.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES TO FAMILY

- I will be fair to every member of my family, giving each the time, love, and consideration for each need.
- I will understand the unique role of my spouse, recognizing that his or her primary responsibility is as a marital partner and parent to the children and secondarily as a chaplain.
- I will regard my children (and grandchildren) as a gift from God and seek to meet their individual needs without imposing undue expectations upon them.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES TO WHOM I SERVE

- I will seek to be a servant minister of the organization I serve living by example through faith, love, wisdom, courage, and integrity.
- I will faithfully discharge my time and energies as a chaplain through proper work habits and reasonable schedules.
- In my administrative and chaplain duties, I will be impartial and fair to all.
- In my chaplain/spiritual counseling, I will maintain strict confidentiality, except in cases in which disclosure is necessary to prevent harm to persons and/or is required by law.
- In my visitation and counseling practices, I will be above approach in manner and appearance.
- I will not charge fees for weddings or funerals; but I will establish policies based on ministry opportunities, time constraints, and theological beliefs.

Form F – (Continued)

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER CLERGY

- I will endeavor to relate to all ministers/chaplains and other faith workers, especially those with whom I serve in my chaplaincy, as partners in the work of God, respecting their ministry and cooperating with them.
- I will seek to serve my minister colleagues and their families with counsel, support, and personal assistance.
- I will refuse to treat other ministers as competition in order to receive an honor or achieve statistical success.
- I will refrain from speaking disparagingly about the person or work of any other minister, especially my predecessor or successor.
- I will be thoughtful and respectful of all retired spiritual leaders.
- I will be honest and kind in my recommendations of other ministers for church positions or other inquiries.
- If aware of serious misconduct by a minister, I will contact responsible officials of that minister's church body and inform them of the incident.

V. PASTORAL COUNSELOR CODE

- I will have a spiritual leader/counselor to whom I can turn for counseling and advice.
- I will be aware of my own needs and vulnerabilities, never seeking to meet my personal needs through my counselees.
- I will recognize the power I hold over counselees and never take advantage of their vulnerability through exploitation or manipulation.
- I will never become sexually or romantically involved with a client or engage in any form of erotic or romantic contact.
- I will demonstrate unconditional acceptance and love toward all counselees, regardless of their standards, beliefs, attitudes, or actions.
- If I am unable to benefit a client, I will refer him or her to another professional who can provide appropriate therapy.
- I will maintain good relationships with other counselors and therapists, informing them and conferring with them about mutual concerns.
- I will keep confidential all matters discussed in a counseling setting unless the information is hazardous for the client or another person or by law must be disclosed.
- I will offer my assistance and services to fellow chaplains and their families whenever needed.
- I will support and contribute to the ministry of my chaplaincy through personal counseling, seminars, lectures, workshops, and group therapy.

Form G

- We will respect the beliefs and traditions of our colleagues and those to whom we minister.
- We will work collegiality with chaplains of religious bodies other than our own as together we seek to provide as full a ministry as possible to our people.
- We will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever we serve, both with the staff where we work and with colleagues throughout the organization, we serve.
- We will recognize that our obligation is to provide for the free exercise of religion for ministry to all members of the agency we serve, their families, and other authorized personnel.
- We will maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayer and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, and regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for professional and personal development.
- We will not disclose confidential communications in private or in public.
- We will show personal love for God in our life and ministry, as we strive together with our colleagues to preserve dignity, maintain discipline, and promote the integrity of the profession to which we have been called.
- We will hold in trust the traditions and practices of our religious body.
- When conducting services of worship that include persons of other than our religious body, we will draw upon those beliefs, principles, and practices that we have in common.
- When performing chaplain duties, we will only accept added responsibility if it does not interfere with the overall effectiveness of our primary ministry.
- We seek to provide pastoral care and ministry to persons of religious bodies other than our own within our area of responsibility with the same investment of ourselves as when we give to members of our own religious body.
- We carefully adhere to whatever direction may be conveyed to us by our endorsing body for the maintenance of our endorsement.
- We understand as a chaplain that we will function in a pluralistic environment with chaplains of other religious bodies to provide for ministry to all personnel attached to the agency we are serving, including their families entrusted to our care as well as the community at large as appropriate.
- We recognize the special power afforded us by our ministerial office. We will never use that power in ways that violate the personhood of another human being, religiously, emotionally, or sexually.
- We will use our pastoral office only for that which is best for the persons under our ministry.
- We are faithful to our individual religious traditions and practices.
- We respect the right of others to hold spiritual beliefs and religious practices different from our own.
- We cooperate and collaborate in ministry.
- We are committed to the highest standards of morality and personal integrity.
- We are committed to professionalism in the performance of duty.
- We will hold in confidence any privileged communication received during the conduct of our ministry.
- We will defend our colleagues against unfair discrimination based on gender, race, religion, or national origin.
- We will, respect the practices and beliefs of each chaplain we supervise and not require of them any service that would be in violation of the faith practices of their particular religious body.

Modified from National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF)

Form H

Living Shield Ministries is a Christian 501(c)3 organization devoted to providing purpose, presence, and peace through emotional and spiritual care before, during, and after crises. Living Shield Ministries is committed to the doctrines and theology of both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures from an Evangelical Christian faith perspective. As such, Living Shield Ministries can only ordain Christians as Chaplains. For those of other faiths, we encourage you to take your School of Chaplaincy certificate of completion back to your respective house of worship and request ordination through them. If you are applying to be ordained under Living Shield Ministries, please request that your pastor provide his recommendation to Living Shield Ministries.

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible (Old and New Testament) to be the inspired (God-breathed), the only infallible, authoritative Word of God revealing the love of God to the world. We believe the words of the Bible give humankind His authoritative revelation, wholly without error of any kind on every topic discussed in the original writings. We believe that the Bible must be interpreted as language is normally used, recognizing the importance of dispensational distinctions.

(Psalm 12:6; 119:89, 130; 160; Isaiah 40:8; 55:8-11; Luke 24:27, 44-47; John 3:16, 5:39, 17:17; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, 13; Ephesians 1:10; 3:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:10-12, 23-25; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

GOD

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and characteristics of personality and with each having specific work to perform. We believe that God is a personal being who is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

(Matthew 3:16; John 10:30; 14:10; 14:26; 15:26; Ephesians 1:3-4; 6-7; 13-14)

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that God the Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh through His miraculous conception in a virgin by the Holy Spirit and His birth. He is, therefore, perfect and complete deity and perfect humanity, these being united without mixture in one person forever. We believe that He lived a sinless life and voluntarily and vicariously paid for the sins of all mankind by dying on the cross. We believe in the resurrection of His crucified body, in His ascension to heaven, in His present ministries in heaven, and in his future literal return to the earth.

(Psalm 2:7; 110; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18-25; 28:19; Luke 1:26-35; 2:52; John 1:1-4, 14, 18, 29; 3:16; 8:58; 10:30; 17:5; 20:28; Acts 1:11, 2:22; Romans 8:24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-20; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:14, 15-17; 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:1-4, 6, 8-12; 4:15; 13:8; 1 Peter 1:1; 2:22; 1 John 2:1-2; 3:16; 4:10, 5:20; Revelation 1:17-18; 19-20)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God and that He has come to reveal and glorify Christ, to convict sinners of sin, righteousness, and judgment, regenerate, indwell, seal, and baptize believers into the body of Christ, impart gifts to believers, and to enable them to live holy lives.

(Genesis 1:2; Psalm 139:7; Isaiah 40:13-14; Matthew 1:18-20; 28:19; Luke 1:35; John 1:13; 3:3-8; 6:63; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15, 13; Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, 4:31; 5:3-4; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:9,10,14, 12; 6:19; 12:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 5:16-18; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:22; 4:30; 5:18, 6:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 9:14; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 John 2:20, 27)

Statement of Faith

Form H – (Continued)

CREATION

We believe that the Genesis account of creation is to be understood historically and literally and not allegorically or figuratively. We believe that man was created in the image of God and that the first man, Adam, sinned, bringing spiritual death to all, who, therefore, stand condemned and in need of Christ's salvation.

(Genesis 1; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:15-20; Romans 5:12; Romans 7)

SALVATION

We believe that God saves by grace alone, apart from works (whether past or future), those who put their faith in Christ alone as God and Savior from sin. Initial faith resulting in justification and regeneration is not a gift of God. That is, fallen humanity when persuaded by the illuminating and convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit and the drawing ministry of the Father still possesses the capacity to believe in Christ. Such faith precedes regeneration. At the moment of belief, Christ imputes His righteousness to believers and keeps them secure eternally. Based on the promises of God (not works), we believe a person can and should have complete assurance of his or her Eternal Life the moment he or she believes in Christ. We believe that God will banish the unrighteous to everlasting punishment in hell.

(Isaiah 55:8-11; Matthew 4:4; 26:28; John 1:4, 9, 12; 3:5, 16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:29; 14:6; 16:8; 17:17; Acts 4:12; 13:38-39; 16:31; Romans 1:7, 16-17; 3:22, 26; 4:4-5; 5:1, 6-9; 6:11-13, 23; 8:2-4, 9, 12-13, 29-30, 32; 10:4, 17; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 8; 6:11; 12:13; 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:21; 7:1; Galatians 2:16; 5:13-26; 6:15; Ephesians 1:3, 7; 2:8-9; 4:22-24; Philippians 3:4-9; Colossians 1:22; 2:6, 10; 3:1-7, 16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 4:3-4; 5:23; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 4:12, 10:10, 14; 12:14; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:18-19, 23; 2:2, 11; 1 John 1:5-7; 3:2, 5-9; 5:13; Jude 24)

THE CHRISTIAN WALK

We believe that although sinless perfection is not possible in this life, all believers are called to live holy lives in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

(John 17:17; Romans 8:1-17; Galatians 5:13-25; Ephesians 5:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; Hebrews 10:10, 14; 1 John 3:2)

MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of Holy Scripture, which is our infallible guide. (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Since the Holy Bible does speak to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that we correctly understand and articulate what the Bible teaches on these matters.

We are committed to the home and family as set forth in Holy Scripture. We believe God has ordained and created marriage to exist between one man and one woman, with absolute marital fidelity. The Bible sets forth specific home and family values, which include the distinct roles of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and children. It is our firm conviction that we uphold the dignity of each individual as we embrace the unchanging and longstanding principles of scriptural truth.

Based on Holy Scripture and the constant moral teaching of the universal Church, we believe:

Marriage

We define marriage as the legal, permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of one man and one woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child.

(Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-9, Mark 10:5-9, Ephesians 5:31-33)

Sexual Immorality

We believe that sexual acts outside marriage are prohibited as sinful. Consequently, Living Shield Ministries chaplains must resist and refrain from any and all sexual acts outside marriage—including but not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, zoophilia, pornography, prostitution, voyeurism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, polygamy, or same-sex sexual acts.

(Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:7-23, Leviticus 20:10-21, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 15:19, Matthew 5:27-28, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:17-19, Colossians 3:5)

Statement of Faith

Form H – (Continued)

Sexual Identity

We believe that God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Consequently, Living Shield Ministries chaplains must affirm their biological sex and refrain from any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their predominant biological sex — including but not limited to elective sex-reassignment, transvestite, transgender, or non- binary “genderqueer” acts or conduct.

(Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

Sexual Orientation

We believe that God created and ordered human sexuality to the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of man and woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. Consequently, Living Shield Ministries chaplains must affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct, which are intrinsically disordered.

(Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9- 11, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9, Revelation 21:2)

Sexual Redemption

We believe that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and should seek redemption and harmonious relationship with God through confession, repentance, baptism, and faith in Jesus Christ. Consequently, Living Shield Ministries chaplains must welcome and treat with respect, compassion, and sensitivity all who experience same-sex attractions or confess sexually immoral acts but are committed to resisting sexual temptation, refraining from sexual immorality, and conforming their behavior to Living Shield Ministries Statement of Faith.

(Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16)

Celibacy

We believe that Holy Scripture grants two life-enhancing options for human sexual behavior: (1) the conjugal “one flesh” marital union of one man and one woman, and (2) celibacy. Either is a gift from God, given as He wills for His glory and the good of those who receive and rejoice in His gift to them. Celibacy and faithful singleness is to be celebrated and affirmed within Living Shield Ministries.

(Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:5-8; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:1- 8; Matthew 19:12; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 12:10; 1 Timothy 5:1-2)

THE CHURCH

We believe that the church, the body of Christ, began on the day of Pentecost and is composed of all who receive Christ through faith. We believe God’s program for the Church is distinguished from His program for Israel described in Daniel 9. We believe that all believers should assemble regularly in local churches for worship, for observing the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord’s Supper, for mutual encouragement and discipline, and for carrying out God’s purposes in this world. We believe that we must dedicate ourselves to prayer, to the service of the Lord, to His authority over our lives, and to the ministry of evangelism.

(Matthew 9:35-38, 22:37-39, 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 2:41-42; 10:44-47; 11:15-17; Romans 6:4-5; 10:9-15, 12:3-8, 20-21; 16:1, 5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-31; 12:12-13, 27; 16:19; Galatians 3:27-28, 6:2, 10; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:16-22; 5:24-25, 30; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18, 2:6-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 3:15)

SATAN

We believe that at some time in the past Satan led a rebellion, including a host of angels, against God and was expelled from the heavenly kingdom. Satan, also called other names including the Devil, is a real being who has tremendous, but limited power, and is the true adversary to God’s people. Satan is destined to be judged and will endure eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

(Ephesians 6:12; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 20: 1-3)

Agreement

Form F – *Canon of Ethics*

By signing this page, you are indicating that you have read and agreed to Living Shield Ministries Canon of Ethics.

I, _____ (print your name) have read and agree with Living Shield Ministries Canon of Ethics. When representing Chaplaincy or Living Shield Ministries I will always endeavor to comply with the highest ethical, moral, spiritual and legal standards always being above reproach.

Signature

Date

Form G – *Principles of Chaplaincy*

By signing this you are indicating that you have read and agreed to Living Shield Ministries Principles of Chaplaincy.

I, _____ (print your name) have read and agree with Living Shield Ministries Principles of Chaplaincy. When representing Chaplaincy or Living Shield Ministries I will always endeavor to comply with the highest ethical, moral, spiritual and legal standards always being above reproach.

Signature

Date

Form H – *Statement of Faith*

By signing this you are indicating that you have read and agreed to Living Shield Ministries Statement of Faith.

I, _____ (print your name) have read and agree with Living Shield Ministries Statement of Faith. **Be sure to sign the Yellow Form that you send to your Pastor (very last page).**

Signature

Date

Pastoral Recommendation

Required

Applicant,

The following pages are to be given to clergy/pastoral staff. ALL YELLOW banned pages **MUST** be mailed to Living Shield Ministries by the clergy/pastoral staff.

Blessings,

Living Shield Ministries Board of Directors

Living Shield Ministries Board of Directors

Submission Steps

- 1) Give the pastoral recommendation packet section (page 19) along **with a copy of Forms F, G, and H** in a **self-addressed envelope** to your pastor **after you have read and signed the entire agreement**.
 - a. This lets your pastor know that you agree with Living Shield Ministries Canon of Ethics, Principles of Chaplaincy and Statement of Faith.
- 2) Ask your pastor to read Living Shield Ministries Canon of Ethics, Principles of Chaplaincy, Statement of Faith, and sign page 17 showing his approval. Have them fill out page 20, and then mail this entire packet to:
 - a. Living Shield Ministries, PO Box 2736, Riverside, CA 92516
- 3) Please mail a hard copy of ALL your information (including \$150 for background check) AT ONE TIME.
 - a. **E-mail** a passport size face picture to contact@livingshield.org
- 4) Once all requirements have been met and Living Shield Ministries has received packets from both you and your pastor, Living Shield Ministries will begin processing your application.
- 5) If all requirements have been met, Living Shield Ministries will generate an Ordination Certificate and arrange for a time to meet with you or to mail it to you. Otherwise, you will receive an email indicating the missing items.

Applicant must sign the Canon of Ethics, Principles of Chaplaincy, and Statement of Faith (page 17), then copy them and include them (pages 11-16) with your Pastoral Recommendation Request.

Print your name on page 19.

Give this page to your Pastor to fill out and have him mail it directly to LSM with the above.

Pastoral Recommendation Request

Required

Dear Pastor,

Living Shield Ministries is a Christian 501 (c) 3 organization devoted to providing purpose, presence, and peace through emotional and spiritual care before, during, and after crises. Living Shield Ministries is committed to the doctrines and theology of both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures from an Evangelical Christian faith perspective. We have attached our Canon of Ethics, Principles of Chaplaincy, and our Statement of Faith for your review.

_____ (print applicants name) has completed Living Shield Ministries five CORE Chaplaincy classes and is requesting ordination through Living Shield Ministries as a Chaplain.

Living Shield Ministries Chaplains are ordained to do the following: 1) To be a force-multiplier to the organization they are serving, 2) Respond to disasters when called upon, 3) Provide emotional and spiritual care (staying within their realm of training) to individuals who are in a state of crisis resulting from trauma and/or loss, 4) Provide Biblical instruction to those who seek it, 5) Officiate weddings and funerals. Living Shield Ministries ordination does not allow the individual to oversee or have authority over a church or any ecclesiastical organization.

We require that the applicant is under the local ecclesiastical authority and maintain spiritual accountability with their local church. We are requesting that you please take a few moments of your time to answer the questions below on their behalf. Thank you for your consideration. The applicant has attached a copy of their signed Canon of Ethics, Principles of Chaplaincy, and Statement of Faith.

Applicants Email: _____ Applicants Phone: _____
Pastor's Name: _____
Pastor's Email: _____ Pastor's Phone: _____
Church Name: _____ Church Phone: _____
Church Address: _____

Please indicate the words most closely describing the applicant: **(check all that apply)**

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member in good standing | <input type="checkbox"/> Highly dedicated | <input type="checkbox"/> Uncooperative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not a member | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated | <input type="checkbox"/> Divisive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attends regularly | <input type="checkbox"/> Low dedication | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does not attend regularly | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative | |

Does the applicant serve a function on your church staff? Yes No

What Role: _____ How long: _____

Do you see the applicant as a spiritual person? Yes No

Understanding that Chaplaincy is a Samaritan ministry done outside the church body, do you see the applicant able to faithfully perform such a ministry? Yes No

Do you recommend the applicant for a Chaplaincy Ordination with Living Shield Ministries? Yes No
(if no, please explain on reverse side)

Pastor Signature

Date