

*Endorsement of chaplains and pastoral counselors is a ministry response that allows the Fellowship to be the presence of Christ in the world.*

*Endorsement is usually required by employing organizations and certifying agencies, such as the Association of Professional Chaplains, Inc., the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, the National Association of Veterans Affairs Chaplains, the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy, and other professional organizations.*



### About CBF

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was formed in August 1990, and adopted the name "Cooperative Baptist Fellowship" on May 10, 1991.

The Council on Endorsement endorsed a hospice chaplain, a hospital chaplain, a pastoral counselor, and a military chaplain on January 22, 1998, in its inaugural endorsement action.

**Our Identity** – We are a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice.

**Our Vision** – Being the presence of Christ in the world.

**Our Mission** – Serving Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.



Cooperative Baptist  
**FELLOWSHIP**

P. O. Box 450329 ♦ Atlanta, Georgia 31145-0329 ♦ (800) 352-8741  
[www.thefellowship.info](http://www.thefellowship.info)

Initiative for Congregational Life #0510P011

## Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Being the Presence of Christ in the World  
Through the Endorsement of Chaplains  
and Pastoral Counselors



Cooperative Baptist  
**FELLOWSHIP**

**C**haplains and pastoral counselors minister in medical centers, the U.S. Armed Forces, pastoral counseling centers, hospice programs, correctional facilities, business and industrial corporations, and public safety services. They are a spiritual presence to unique communities in these specialized settings.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship affirms the ministry of chaplains and pastoral counselors through endorsement. Endorsement is an official declaration by the Fellowship through the Council on Endorsement that a person is in good standing as a minister in CBF.





## Endorsement Qualifications

Endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors serve in one of the following categories:



◆ **CPE Program**

**Enrollee:** One must be currently enrolled in the clinical pastoral education program.

◆ **Chaplain Candidate:**

One is a seminarian who is applying as a candidate to a branch of military service.



◆ **Employed Chaplain or Pastoral Counselor:**

One is employed or is required to be endorsed for the application process to an employing agency.

◆ **Certified Chaplain or Pastoral Counselor:**

Endorsement is required for the application process.

◆ **Volunteer Chaplain:** One is duly appointed by the using agency.

Identification with and membership in CBF is a qualification for endorsement. CBF membership is defined as membership in a church that financially supports CBF or individual membership through personal contributions.

## Endorsement Process

1. The candidate requests an application from the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Office of the CBF Resource Center.
2. The applicant completes and returns the application.
3. The Council on Endorsement considers the application for final approval.
4. The candidate is notified of endorsement.

## Benefits

CBF chaplains and pastoral counselors may contact the CBF Church Benefits Board for information about retirement, insurance and other benefits at (800) 352-8741.



## Endorsement Relationship

Endorsement is not just an action by the Council on Endorsement. It is also a relationship of care and support by the CBF community for the endorsee and the endorsee's family.



Chaplaincy and pastoral counseling staff at the CBF Resource Center are a caring presence to endorsees and their families. Support is expressed through telephone and e-mail contacts, interactions at annual conferences, on-site visits at places of ministry, and conference meals hosted by CBF staff for chaplains, pastoral counselors, and their families. These personal contacts are special experiences.

Endorsees and their families are also supported by their state and regional CBF organizations, their churches, and their CBF endorsee community.

Chaplains and pastoral counselors are extensions of local congregations, taking the local church into specialized settings of ministry.

## What CBF Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors are Saying ...

*"I am thankful to be endorsed by the CBF because I am recognized as an individual whom God has called, with no pressure to fit a certain mold or stereotype."*

Susan Barnett, Chaplain  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
Florence, Colo.

*"It is my great privilege to serve as an Air Force chaplain endorsed by the CBF. I feel very much a part of a Fellowship committed to missions – at home and overseas. We have Air Force chaplains serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and at Air Force bases around the world, sharing the love and hope we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful for the support we have from the CBF."*

Charles Baldwin, Chief of Chaplains  
United States Air Force  
Washington, D.C.



*"In endorsement, the CBF promises that if I will be faithful to go, they will be faithful to pray and encourage. I count on that promise every day."*

Ann Miller, Pediatric Chaplain  
Cook Children's Health Care System  
Fort Worth, Texas

*"CBF endorsement for me carries the blessing, authorization, and support of an integrous community of faith wherein one's personal gifts for specialized ministry are unconditionally recognized, given ongoing pastoral encouragement, and are valued as integral to the overall services of the Kingdom of God."*

Jim Pruett, Therapist and Supervisor  
Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services  
Charlotte, N.C.