



## RURAL CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION

### Core Leadership Team:

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### Who are Rural Chaplains?

A Rural Chaplain is a person called by God whose gifts and graces are uniquely suited for ministry with town and rural communities. A Rural Chaplain serves:

- as an advocate for the provision of human services that respond to the needs of persons in the midst of change and for social and economic systems which are just, participatory and sustainable in town and rural communities and society at all levels
- as an interpreter of town and rural issues and concerns to local, denominational, and ecumenical forms of the church, and to the communities where the Church ministers
- as a caring person who stands with and affirms persons, churches, and communities experiencing hardship or devastation

The Rural Chaplains Association (RCA) assists those women and men who sense a call from God to minister in churches, projects or institutions located in open country, rural communities, isolated areas, villages, and small and large towns. The Association provides opportunity for Rural Chaplains to enhance and refine their skills of ministry and to participate in a network for fellowship, encouragement, and the sharing of resources and ideas.

### What is the Process to Become a Rural Chaplain?

A lay or clergy candidate seeking Certification as a Rural Chaplain must attend two Annual Meetings/Focus Events, meet two Review Committees, and be approved by the Core Leadership Team before certification as a Rural Chaplain. Also, the following documents must be submitted to the Core Leadership Team of the Rural Chaplains Association before meeting the first Review Committee:

- (1) A Petition for Certification.
- (2) An Autobiographical Sketch focusing on expertise, experience and skills with town and country ministry.
- (3) A Statement of Ministry, indicating how the candidate expects to serve in the roles of a Rural Chaplain, including the identification of three rural issues/concerns and how these will be addressed.
- (4) Two Letters of Recommendation -- one from a Judicatory Leader (district superintendent, bishop, association/presbyter leader, etc.) and one from an officer of your local congregation or work place leader (pastor, chairperson of administrative/church council, staff-parish relations committee, or another person who knows of the candidate's work, such as a supervisor or department head).



*Rural Chaplains Association  
Petition for Certification*

Please  
attach a  
recent  
photo

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

Present Occupation/Responsibility \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rural Ministry Experiences \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Work Experience \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of your Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your Judicatory (district, conference, association, presbyter, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Unique things about you (passions, hobbies, special ministries, publications, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Contact information for persons being sent the attached Recommendation Forms, along with the cover page on the Rural Chaplains Association.**

**Judicatory Leader**

**Local Church Officer**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return the Petition for Certification, Autobiographical Sketch, and Ministry Statement to Judy Matheny, P. O. Box 55, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745 or [jcm2174@gmail.com](mailto:jcm2174@gmail.com)***

## *Autobiographical Sketch*

*Name* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*In the space below, please tell about yourself and how you relate to town and country ministries, focusing on your expertise, experience, and skills.*

***Ministry Statement***  
***Roles as a Rural Chaplain***  
***for***

***Name*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Date*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Indicate how you expect to serve in the roles of a Rural Chaplain, including the identification of three rural issues/concerns and how you expect to respond to these concerns.***

1.

2.

3.

***Rural Chaplains Association***  
***Recommendation Form for Judicatory Leader***  
**(district superintendent, bishop, association/presbyter leader, etc.)**

***All information submitted will be held in confidence by the Association***

Name of candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**What "Gifts and Graces" do you feel this candidate has for town and country ministries?**

**What special skills has this person demonstrated and in what context?**

**Based on your experience with this candidate, how has interest in rural concerns and issues been expressed or addressed? Please give an example.**

**What information can you share to assist in evaluating and empowering this candidate for being in a shared ministry in rural places and as a Rural Chaplain?**

**Do you recommend this candidate for Certification as a Rural Chaplain? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_**

**Title or position \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**email \_\_\_\_\_**

***Rural Chaplains Association***

***Recommendation Form for Local Church Officer or Work Place Leader***

**(pastor, chairperson of administrative or church council, pastor-parish committee, or another person who knows of your work, such as supervisor or department head).**

***All information submitted will be held in confidence by the Association***

**Name of candidate** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**What "Gifts and Graces" do you feel this candidate has for town and country ministries?**

**What special skills has this person demonstrated and in what context?**

**Based on your experience with this candidate, how has interest in rural concerns and issues been expressed or addressed? Please give an example.**

**What information can you share to assist in evaluating and empowering this candidate for being in a shared ministry in rural places and as a Rural Chaplain?**

**Do you recommend this candidate for Certification as a Rural Chaplain?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title or position** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**email** \_\_\_\_\_