

 The Coalition of
Spirit-filled Churches
For Pastoral Care in Specialized Settings

Pentecostal



Renewal



Charismatic

February 8, 2023 (rev. May 27, 2023)

Dear Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches Military, Veterans Affairs, & FBOP Chaplains,
We trust that you are well and enjoying your ministries in these very challenging times.

An important part of a chaplain's professional life is continuing education as well as networking and fellowship with other chaplains. It provides for a healthy exchange of ideas and opportunities to develop professional relationships. Similarly, it is essential to meet with chaplains of your own faith group AND to consult with your Endorser on personal and professional matters. **We expect you to meet with us at least every 3 years.**

With this in mind, we are strongly encouraging you to consider attending the

**Military Chaplains Association's
National Institute and Annual Meeting 2023
&**

**The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches'
Annual Federal Chaplains Gathering (Pre-Conference)**

MAKE PLANS NOW!

July 25 is our check-in and dinner, check-out on the morning of the 29th.

Graduate Hotel

About Lodging. The MCA folks were able to negotiate a good price for lodging: **\$112 per night** (which is at the military/federal per diem rate) at Graduate Hotel -- Columbia, SC. To register, click **HERE** and use the Group Code "MCA". If you encounter problems with the process, please call Lyseah McNew at 803- 779-7779 and let her know you are with "MCA" and you will get the discounted rate. The rooms are the same price, whether king or two doubles. But rooms are limited.

!!!Register TODAY!!!

**To view lodging, please visit
www.graduatehotels.com/columbia-sc**



**1619 Pendleton St
Columbia, SC 29201
803-779-7779**

Post Office Box 6606 ♦ Newport News, Virginia 23606

(877) CSC-CHAP ♦ Fax: (425) 977-1360 ♦ Web: www.Spirit-filled.org ♦ E-mail: Chaplaincy@Spirit-filled.org



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Our first meeting as CSC Chaplains is dinner, July 25th [1800 hours, meet in the hotel lobby], so that as a group we may enjoy some great networking and fellowship. The 26th and 27th will be set-aside for times of one-one meetings with your endorser for mentoring, fellowship, prayer, encouragement, and care.

About the Venue. This year, the MCA Meeting will be held in **Columbia, SC, at the famous and historical Graduate Hotel (a section of it used to be Governor's Residence).** The MCA meeting will take place Thursday evening (July 27th) and all-day Friday, closing-out Saturday noon, July 29. We are asking that CSC Chaplains gather a couple days ahead of the MCA Meeting, **using either July 24 or 25 as a travel day (depending on distance traveled) and plan to meet as a distinct faith group on the evening of Tuesday, the 25th and all day Wednesday and Thursday. Then, we will attend the MCA conference. The 29th or 30th (depending on you!) will be a travel day back to respective homes.** [By the way, Columbia is a great place to relax, see sights, and do tourism. Some folks may wish to use the occasion to supplement their permissive TDY with personal leave to really make a vacation out of the week.]

In addition to registering for lodging, you **will need to register for the MCA Continuing Education Conference** at <https://tinyurl.com/muncmr9a>. **The price this year is only \$90/person.**



This is important! → When you make your plans, PLEASE let me (Dave) know that you are registering by texting me at 757-927-2427 or emailing me at Chaplaincy@Spirit-filled.org. We MUST have a count for both lodging at Graduate and registration for MCA.

This conference will meet our expectations for your denominational presence and continuing education as a professional federal chaplain – and hopefully it will also provide some spiritual R & R and encouragement! We will be scheduling time for each of you to spend with me reviewing your professional goals during the combined 4-day conference.

Any questions about this endorsing office request may be addressed to the undersigned at Chaplaincy@Spirit-filled.org or 877-CSC-CHAP [877-272-2427]. For more information about the US Congress-Chartered Military Chaplains Association, please visit www.mca-usa.org.

May you be blessed, enriched, and refreshed!

Sincerely,

Dave

David B. Plummer, Endorsing Executive

The Military Chaplains Association's List of Confirmed Presenters

The presenters for the National Institute on Friday, 28 July in Columbia, SC at the Graduate Hotel include:

The [Rev. Trace Haythorn](#), PhD, one of the cofounders of the **Chaplaincy Innovation Lab (CIL)**, located at Brandeis University. If Trace's name is not immediately recognizable, the CIL certainly should be as we have reported on their research and webinars for the past number of years. I have heard Trace speak several times and he will definitely bring us up to speed on what is happening with chaplaincy across the different modalities. He also has a good concept of how the public perceives chaplains.

Chaplain Charlie Reynolds, US Army, Retired, will do an overview of religious influences on the Russian-Ukrainian war. Charlie was a career Army Reserve chaplain who focused on world religions. At a recent MCA South Carolina chapter meeting he was kept at the podium for over an hour with questions from our colleagues coming at a steady pace. Many noted this was among the most engaging presentations they had heard about the Russian war against Ukraine, all thanks to the insights provided by Charlie.

In this era of anti-Jewish hate crimes, **Chaplain Al Slomovitz, US Navy, Retired, PhD**, will provide some information he has found useful in educating communities - Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and others - on how to be aware of the religious climate around them and how to educate themselves on being prepared for religious hate crimes.

Chaplain Tim Cole - a Scottish retired UK army chaplain - will discuss how we as chaplains can gain insights and appreciation on what we can do daily, yet sometimes gloss over in the "busyness" of our daily activities. Tim is currently the rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Georgetown. However, he has managed to keep his Scottish accent and wit. He also has some observations about how we Yanks do chaplaincy a bit differently than in the UK. I have heard him previously and I can vouch that you will end the conference more refreshed than when we start in the morning.

We will also provide updates on the Veterans Military Friendly Congregation (VMFC) program, which will truly bring the program into a national ministry in ways had often hoped would happen.