

Non-CRM Ecclesiastical Endorsement Policy for WELS Chaplain Certificate Program

The WELS Chaplain Certification Program has a different process for awarding Ecclesiastical Endorsement to those who have earned the WELS Chaplain Certificate but are not WELS called workers ("Non-CRM"). First, to receive WELS Non-CRM Ecclesiastical Endorsement the applicant must have successfully completed the religious and practical training from Martin Luther College (MLC) to be awarded the WELS Chaplain Certificate.

To enter the WELS Chaplain Certificate Program the student must meet all the entrance requirements for MLC and apply to enroll in the WELS Chaplain Certificate Program (CCP). Enrollment in the program is granted after the CCP Application Review Committee (ARC) concludes its contact with the applicant, the references and the home pastor. Barring anything that would negatively impact the student's service in chaplaincy work, upon recommendation from ARC the full CCP committee approves the application. The student's enrollment approval and name of adviser is transmitted to MLC Continuing Education department.

Throughout the time that the student is taking courses his/her progress is monitored by the instructors and the student's adviser. Upon successful completion of the required courses and one elective and having shown competence and suitability to serve as a chaplain, MLC in conjunction with WELS Special Ministries Chaplain Certificate Program, the student will receive a WELS Chaplain Program Certificate.

At this time, should the need arise for WELS Ecclesiastical Endorsement, the WELS CCP committee has already attested to the candidates academic competence and suitability to serve as a chaplain. Now the Church has to attest to the candidate's faithfulness to the Word of God.

1. The applicant will fill out the Non-CRM Ecclesiastical Endorsement application form.
2. The Non-CRM Ecclesiastical Endorsement application form will be given to the applicant's home/local pastor to complete.
3. The applicant's home/local pastor will forward the completed form to the District President.
4. The District President, after discussion with the home/local pastor, will forward the form to the WELS President, currently Pastor Mark Schroeder, if that is the appropriate action.
5. The WELS President, after discussion with the District President and/or the home/local pastor, will take the appropriate action.

Non-CRM Ecclesiastical Endorsement Application Form below

Applicant's Pastor Assessment (please print clearly)

Name: _____

Congregation: _____

Address: _____

District: _____ District President : _____

Pastor's Assessment:

As the home/local pastor, you verify that your member is performing or will perform a valid chaplain ministry as a member in good standing in the local congregation and you will continue to shepherd this individual.

Pastor's signature

Date

In the event that you cannot give endorsement, give the reason(s):

Pastor's signature

Date