

**E-News**  
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Not every Minister of the Word & Sacrament serves as a pastor of a congregation. Some serve as military or hospital chaplains, as campus ministers, as mission co-workers, as seminary professors, as mid-council or agency staff, or as directors of non-profits. The Book of Order calls these “Validated Ministries” and they are powerful witnesses to the reconciling work of Jesus Christ in the world. However, they also go overlooked as those ministers engaged in these ministries can’t always regularly attend presbytery meetings, serve on committees, or provide pulpit supply because of the nature of their work. Today I want to highlight the ministry of the Rev. Stacie Pitts Maynard who received Board Certification status in Chaplaincy (BCC) on March 16, 2023. Stacie serves as a full-time chaplain at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Boardman, OH and is also a parish associate for Poland Presbyterian Church! I had the privilege of speaking with Stacie about her latest achievement:

**Stacie, many wonder the difference between a chaplain and a minister; can you explain?**

The main difference between a chaplain and a minister is where we serve. A chaplain has all the credentials as a minister who serves in a congregation, plus four or more units of clinical pastoral education, which is master level classes taken as an internship over the course of a year. Training is accredited by the Association of Professional Chaplains and takes place within clinical settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, or the military. I trained at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. My internship was working directly with Veterans who were suffering from behavioral health problems and those who had dementia/Alzheimer’s. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday I worked with the Veterans and on Wednesdays I had class for eight hours.

As a chaplain my job is to represent the presence of Christ, usually at the bedside or amid traumas. My mission is to meet the needs of the patient or family, whether for the birth of a baby or during an illness or at death. The key difference between the congregational minister and myself, as a chaplain, is that I walk along side the patient for their hospital stays and the congregational minister sees their member at service on Sunday morning, for congregational or community meetings, and shares in the life cycle of a congregant. My pastoral presence remains only for the duration of the patient’s length of stay within the hospital. I rarely know anything about the patient after they leave the hospital.

**What was the process you undertook for Board Certification?**

The process is not for the lighthearted. As Presbyterians, we do all things decently and in order, which is also what is needed for BCC. I had to attain an accredited four-year undergraduate, then attend an accredited seminary while under the care of my home presbytery, receive my Master of Divinity, and pass all five ordination exams. Let us not forget standing before Presbytery for the oral examination after presenting my statement of faith. From there I went on to serve three churches and then entered CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) for a year. I earned five units of CPE. From there I served a local hospice. Then I moved to St. E’s where I have been serving for four years. For BCC, one must have 2,000 clinical hours with patients and have the endorsement of one’s supervisor. Plus, I had to have the endorsement of the Stated Clerk stating that I was in good standing. I had to have a reference from another Board-Certified Chaplain with whom I had

worked and a reference from a doctor/nurse/social worker, again someone with whom I have worked. I then had to complete an autobiography, provide two verbatims which are word for word conversations and interactions with two different patients. This included reflection, theology, and psychology used within the conversation. Then I had to answer thirty-one competency essays. After all these steps, the Association of Professional Chaplains accepts or declines the application submitted. Then I had to go before an interview committee of four Board Certified Chaplains: three men and one woman in my interview. During the interview, which was conducted by Zoom, the interviewers are allowed to ask any questions which pertain to the autobiography, verbatims, and competency essays. This process took about two hours. The good part is that after the interviewers review how I did during the interview and with all the submitted paperwork, I found out that I passed!

**Why is Board Certification important to your ministry?**

The hospital likes to see all disciplines continue education and for me this was the next step in my journey. I like to say that now I am in a league of chaplains who have gone above and beyond the call. Certification means that I have attained professional recognition amongst my peers.

Please join me in congratulating Stacie for this accomplishment. Next time you visit St. Elizabeth's in Boardman be sure to visit the chaplain's office and treat her to coffee to thank her for the important service she is doing to share the love of God in critical times in the patient's lives.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,  
Barry