The Department of Veterans Affairs

Chaplain Service

Veterans Community Outreach Initiative

Who: Pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, retired chaplains, Veterans Service Organizations' chaplains, veteran patients and their families, and any one who wants to assist veterans who have recently returned from the Global War on Terror.

What: A half-day training event focused on the needs of America's newest veterans and their families. Learn more about their needs and how you and your faith community can help.

When: As scheduled by local VA chaplains and VA medical centers. To learn when and where a VCOI event will be coming to your area, please call the Chaplain Service at your closest VA medical center or call the National VA Chaplain Center at (757) 728-3180.

Where: In all areas of the United States. Training may be conducted in the VA medical centers, in community houses of worship, or in community meeting facilities.

Why: 1) To provide spiritual and pastoral care in the community for returning warriors and their immediate caregivers who desire such care, and 2) to provide education and resource literature for community clergy support persons, regarding physical, psycho/social, and spiritual health issues often experienced by returning warriors and their families.

(**Note**: This program does not train clergy to become VA chaplains. It does not invite clergy to minister in a VA medical center. The training is scheduled and sponsored by local VAMC chaplains and is designed to assist clergy as they minister to Veterans from their current positions of employment. There is no charge for the training.)

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