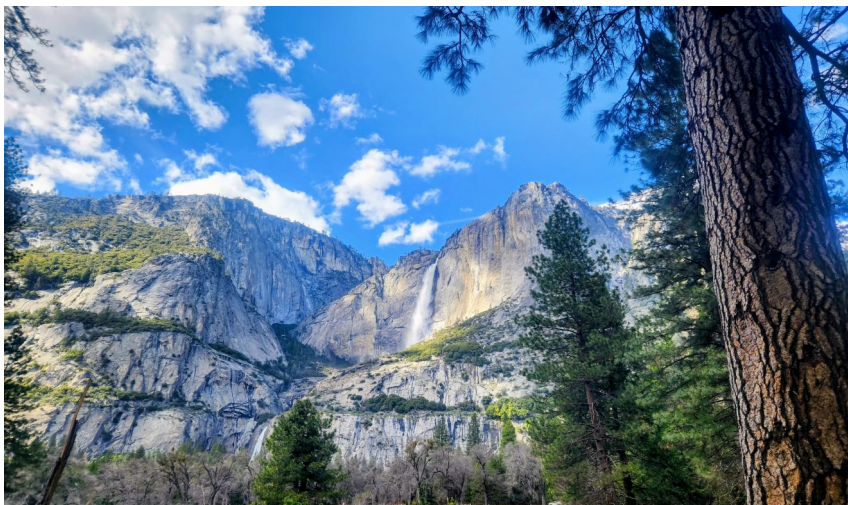




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A Midyear Reflection for Chaplains

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).

Greetings, Chaplains,

These profound and encouraging words from Paul resonate deeply as we reach the midpoint of 2026. At the start of the year, many set meaningful goals, yet over time, the demands of daily life have caused some to drift away from them. Without clear, measurable steps, it becomes difficult to track progress or discern the next step forward.

God does not think as we do. He is not bound by time or constrained by the calendars that shape our lives. Only He knows what the remainder of the year will bring. Our responsibility is to seek Him in every area of our lives without fear and without holding back.

I encourage you to pause, take inventory, and press forward with renewed purpose, pursuing your goals with perseverance and dedication.

Paul's promise reminds us that our work as chaplains is sustained by a higher purpose and guided by God's faithful hand. As we provide spiritual and moral support to individuals and their families in complex and demanding environments, God's transforming work will continue preparing our hearts and lives for the glorious return of Christ.

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment to God and to your sacred calling. We remain confident that the good work begun in you will continue to grow and bear fruit in the lives you touch. Please know that you and your families are lifted up in prayer during our weekly staff meetings.

We encourage you to keep us informed about your ministry, both its progress and its challenges. Please also ensure your personal information is up to date on the ACM website so we may stay connected and share important updates.

May God continue to bless you with the assurance and confidence needed to complete the great work uniquely and divinely assigned to you!

Washington Johnson II



Recent Events



Elder Cecelia Laupati, an endorsed healthcare chaplain, was ordained at the Northern California Conference on January 30, 2026

Air Force Chaplain Ney Khut, assigned to Joint Base San Antonio–Randolph, was ordained on April 16, 2026, by Elder Jim Jenkins, President of the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, in the presence of his family.



Adventist Bioethics Consortium

May 18-19, 2026

At Adventist Health Headquarter in Roseville, California

As chaplains are involved in ethics work in a variety of ways, whether participating in patient care team meetings, supporting patients and families through end-of-life decisions, palliative care, and hospice, or guiding students in campus settings, we regularly walk with people facing difficult ethical questions. Many chaplains also serve directly on ethics committees and help make recommendations regarding patient care and institutional practices.

The Adventist Bioethics Consortium supports this important work through continuing education, meaningful conversations, and an annual conference where Adventist leaders — including chaplains, clinicians, educators, and administrators — gather to discuss ethical issues facing healthcare, ministry, and society today.

Becoming part of the consortium and attending the annual conference is a valuable opportunity for learning, networking, and spiritual reflection alongside others engaged in this important ministry.



Announcements



NAD ACM welcomes Ms. Jennifer Madera as our Administrative Assistant/Endorsement Specialist.

Jennifer joins the ACM team from Washington Adventist University, where she served as the Administrative Assistant for the Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations. Jennifer is passionate about serving others and building meaningful connections that support the mission and growth of the organizations she serves.

She fits right in to our department and on task with everything needed her care and attention. We are grateful to God for gifting our team a dedicated, kind, humble, and capable team member. We hope you will be blessed by her when you contact our office.

She can be reached by email at jennifermadera@nadadventist.org or by phone at 1(443)391-7249.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Please make sure your work and home addresses, email addresses, and contact phone numbers are current in your ACM portal.
2. Please note that only PDF documents can be uploaded to your portal.
3. For Verification of Employment (VOE) letters, please ensure the documents contain a company letterhead, your name, your full-time status, and the contact information of HR or authorized HR personnel.
4. ALL VOEs must be requested by the chaplain, just as transcript requests must be requested by the individual.

SAVE THE DATE:

First Zoom Gathering for Palliative and Hospice Chaplains
August 24 at 3:00pm EST

The North American Division supports the following initiative from the General Conference. For more information click on the link below:

[OneVoice 2027](#)



Important Dates for Professional Development Training

2026

Dec 5-9 Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council (PELC) (Oakwood University)

2027

Jun 21–24 North American Division- Ministerial Conference (Lexington, KY)

Dec 4- 8 Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council (PELC) (Oakwood University)

2028

Jun 19-21 Professional Development Training - Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Berrien Springs, MI)

Dec 2-6 Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council (PELC) (Oakwood University)

2029

Mar 19-21 Professional Development Training - North American Division Headquarters (Columbia, MD)

Dec 1-5 Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council (PELC) (Oakwood University)

2030

Jun TBA World Congress - Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (Indianapolis, IN)

Dec 7 -11 Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council (PELC) (Oakwood University)

Spouse’s Highlight



Honoring the Hidden Ministry of Chaplaincy Spouses

This year, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries pauses to recognize a group whose ministry is often quiet, but deeply essential: chaplaincy spouses. While chaplains serve in hospitals, military settings, correctional institutions, campuses, and communities, their spouses often share in the weight of that calling through prayer, encouragement, sacrifice, and steadfast support.

Chaplaincy can require long hours, unexpected calls, emotional strength, and family flexibility. In those moments, spouses help provide the stability, grace, and spiritual support that sustain chaplains as they minister to others in crisis, grief, transition, and hope.

Their service may not always be public, but it is sacred. Through patience, hospitality, prayer, and love, chaplaincy spouses strengthen the ministry of presence and reflect the compassion of Christ.

Scripture reminds us, “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people” (Hebrews 6:10, NIV).

To every chaplaincy spouse, we continually say thank you for who you are and what you do in chaplaincy ministry! Your faithfulness matters. Your sacrifices are seen. Your ministry is valued. It is a privilege to honor you as an essential part of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries and the mission of bringing Christ’s healing presence to the world.

We would like to give special recognition to you during the 2026 Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Conference (PELC), during Chaplain’s Sabbath on December 5 at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

To be included in a special slideshow presentation, please upload a photo of you and your chaplain using the link below. When naming the file, please include both yours and the chaplain’s name, for example: Klem and Linda Carson.

To upload your photo, please [click here](#).

Joyce Johnson
Chaplain Spouses Coordinator
Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (Volunteer)



Associate Directors' Corner

Dear colleagues and friends,

As we approach the second half of 2026, I find myself especially grateful for God's continued blessings and gentle guidance in our lives. My prayer for each of you is that God's peace, love, and grace surround you and your loved ones in a very real and comforting way. This mid-point in the year offers us a meaningful opportunity to pause—to breathe, to rest, reset, and to reflect on the hopes and direction God placed on our hearts at the beginning of the year.

I know this season has not been easy for many. Some of you are navigating personal challenges, caring for loved ones, lifting up your children in prayer, facing financial uncertainties, or quietly feeling the weight of burnout. Wherever you find yourself today, please know you are not alone. I hope you are able to take moments—however small—to care for yourselves and reconnect with God's presence and strength.

With my regions now expanded to include the Mid-America and Southwestern Unions, I realize it's not always possible for me to visit as often as I would like. Please don't hesitate to reach out by call or text if you would welcome a visit—I will do my very best to make time for you. In the coming months, our ACM team will be in New Orleans from June 11–13 for the APC Convention. In July, I'll be in Southern California from the 10th to the 26th, and in August, in Washington from the 11th to the 16th. I would truly value the opportunity to connect if our paths align.

While the world around us can feel uncertain, I remain hopeful and prayerful—for peace, clarity, and compassion to guide us as we continue serving others.

May we keep moving forward together, strengthened by God's healing, filled with His joy, and grounded in His presence.

With care and prayers,

Angela

Chaplain Angela Li , Healthcare & Campus—Mid-America, Southwestern, & West Regions

Cell: 310-617-2897 / angelali@nadadventist.org

Dear Chaplains,

I hope that you are doing great. I want you to know that you, your loved ones, and your ministry are constantly in my thoughts and prayers. I am so grateful for the work that you are doing in caring for people through spiritual care in your own unique ways and settings. Thank you for the work that you do!

I have truly enjoyed getting acquainted with many of you over the past few months. Hearing your stories has been a blessing to me personally, and I continue to be inspired by the ways that God is using you in ministry. It has also been a pleasure to work alongside chaplains who are seeking endorsement. Congratulations to those who were recently endorsed! Thank you for trusting me to walk with you through that journey and to support you along the way.

I would love the opportunity to meet all of you. If you are serving in Maryland, Florida, or Illinois and we have not yet had the chance to connect, please reach out to me. I simply want to hear how things are going in your chaplaincy journey and learn more about your ministry. You can contact me at 717-377-2690.

Thank you again for your faithful service and ministry. Please know that your work matters deeply and continues to make a difference in the lives of those you serve every day.

Blessings,

Denny Rengifo

Chaplain Denny Rengifo, Healthcare & Campus - Southern, Lake, Columbia and Atlantic Regions
Cell: 717-377-2690 / dennyrengifo@nadadventist.org

Stay with Me, I Want to Be Alone: A Chaplain's Search for Meaning

by Keith W. Wakefield, ACPE Educator

At the end of life, verbal communication often breaks down for both physical and emotional reasons. Sometimes, physical touch is all you've got. You have to be comfortable with that to be a chaplain. I once held the hand of a woman for forty-five minutes as she summoned the strength to sign a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) form.

I felt a little bitter at the beginning of that visit, and ashamed about it. It was a Friday afternoon. I had been contemplating using the start of the Sabbath as an excuse to pass the visit on to someone else while I waited for the last minute to tick by on my shift. Instead, I went. Very quickly, the patient pulled me into a handshake and wouldn't let go.

Her hand was thin but strong. It was calloused and I could feel her bones. The room was filled with family members whose mood became heightened, uneasy, desperate, when I came in. They knew I was from hospice. I was there to facilitate her death.

I found myself in an awkward position, both figuratively and literally. For my initial handshake, I had reached out my left hand to her rather than my right because a table was in the way and I was on her left side. Now, my arm was crossed over my body, and I was in a contorted position; I didn't want to turn my back on either the patient or her husband, who was beside the bed. I started to pull away after a minute, if only to shift positions, but her grip tightened. So, I gave up.

"Squeeze once for yes, twice for no," I said. "Make sense?"

She squeezed twice, laughed, and coughed. Fog filled her CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) mask and for a moment obscured her expression. I was getting the sense from her family that this was a woman who loved jokes and laughed a lot.

Kierkegaard: "What if everything in life was a misunderstanding—what if laughter was really tears?"

Enjoying life that much can make it difficult to leave it. She was scared, she was sad, she didn't want to let go.

The paper and pen were already in front of her. The hospice company was getting impatient. It was the end of the day on a Friday, and they wanted to get this done so they could facilitate the business of death over the weekend. Knowing that the family and patient were aware of this pressure made me feel even more shame.

Eventually, she did it. She let go of my hand for just the amount of time it took her to sign. Then quickly she reached for me again.

I knew the administrative staff in the office downtown were waiting for my call. Once they knew I had the signature, they could initiate the transfer to hospice next morning. There, she would be taken off the breathing machine and die.

Instead of rushing out, I took the patient's hand again. I made sure to give her my right one this time so I could settle in comfortably for another little while. I wanted her to understand this wasn't just a transaction. No. Not for her and not for me. For me, it was a beautiful way to start the Sabbath.



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Follow us on [Facebook](#) for the latest updates, events, and ministry resources.

