2027 COMISS NETWORK FORUM

January 11, 2027

"Leading Through Change"

(Please note that times listed below are in the Eastern Time Zone)

Forum Host: Ivan Omaña, D. Min, BCC, BCPC, Director/Endorser of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. We are grateful to the World Headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, MD, for graciously hosting our COMISS conference and generously supporting the conference in a slew of tangible and intangible ways.

Host Center: Seventh-day Adventist Church-Headquarters,
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD, 20904

Monday, January 11, 2027

8:00- 8:30 am Registration, Check-In, Continental Breakfast

8:30- 8:40 am Welcome: Ivan Omaña, D. Min, BCC, BCPC, Director/Endorser, Forum Host and The Rev. Denise Parker Lawrence, D.Min. CPSP Diplomate, COMISS Chair, COMISS Network.

8:40-8:50 am Opening Meditation: Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy, BCC, GRMS

8:50-9:00 am Overview of Agenda, Meeting Format Details, Introduction of Speakers: Patricia F. Appelhans JD, COMISS Chair-Elect, COMISS Network

9:00-10:00 am Business Meeting-The Rev. Denise Parker Lawrence, D. Min.

- Minutes of Forum 2026
- Report of Chair
- Report of Budget & Finance -Treasurer Report
- CCAPS Report
- Report of Spiritual Care Week
- New Business
- Election of Leadership
- Election of Nominating Committee
- Presentation of new COMISS Members

10:00-10:30 am Break

10:30-11:30 am Plenary 1: Presenter Dr. Steve West, Director of Chaplaincy, National Association of Evangelicals

Trauma, PTSD, and the Endorser's Role in Sustaining Chaplains

In this one-hour presentation, Steve will draw from *The Bronze Scar* and *Beyond the Scar* to help chaplain endorsers better understand trauma, PTSD, moral injury, and the emotional and spiritual weight chaplains can carry as they care for people in crisis. The session will focus on the important role endorsers have in preparing, supporting, guiding, and restoring chaplains who serve in military, healthcare, correctional, public safety, workplace, and community settings. The goal is to help endorsers recognize when chaplains may be struggling, ask better questions, encourage help-seeking without shame, and build systems of care that help chaplains continue serving with health, integrity, resilience, and compassion.

11:30-12:30 pm: Chat and Chew

This is your opportunity to network, dialogue, and exchange contact information as we plan for future encounters. It is time to network, communicate and advocate.

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12:30-12:40 pm Afternoon Reflection: Russell Hayden Davis, PhD.

12:40-2:00 pm Plenary 2: Presenter Rabbi Joseph S. Ozarowski, D.Min., BCC, Rabbinic Counselor and Chaplain, JCFS Chicago.

Job through the Eyes of a Health Care Chaplain

Job could have used someone with our skill set! While the major and classic commentators deal with the difficult theology of Job or the fascinating literary aspects of the book, no one really deals with Job's pain. We will examine Job by studying excerpts from the text, doing our own spiritual assessment of Job, and identifying the pastoral/spiritual care themes of the narrative.

2:00-2:30 pm Break

2:30-3:30 pm Plenary 3: Presenters Rev. Sheri M. Winesett Campbell M.Div., BCC, Centra Hospice serves as a hospice chaplain supporting Lynchburg, Virginia and surrounding counties, APC Board of Directors and Justin Martin, BCC, Director of Spiritual Care, Innovation & Transformation, Mercy, APC Board of Directors

Artificial Intelligence in Chaplaincy: Balancing Innovation with Ethical Integrity

Artificial intelligence is reshaping administrative and clinical work in chaplaincy, creating both new opportunities and new ethical questions. Led by co-chairs of APC's ETHOS (Ethical Technology for Human-Oriented Spiritual Care) Task Force, this session will introduce core AI concepts and terminology while exploring the intersection of professional ethics, concerns in popular AI discourse, and technological innovation. Participants will learn practical tools for distinguishing appropriate from problematic use cases and examine real-world examples of AI in chaplaincy. Case studies will highlight how AI can support administrative and clinical workflows while safeguarding confidentiality, trust, and the sacred nature of spiritual care.

Objectives:

1. Explain the basic functions of generative and nongenerative AI and identify potential benefits and risks to healthcare chaplaincy.
2. Identify ethical flashpoints for AI use in chaplaincy based on development of APC's ETHOS Spiritual Care Ethics Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence (forthcoming).
3. Demonstrate practical, real-world applications of AI that enhance administrative and clinical efficiency while maintaining professional integrity.

3:30 pm- Closing Remarks and Adjournment:

The Rev. Denise Parker Lawrence, D. Min and Patricia F. Appelhans JD

COMISS Forum 2027 Registration Form