

Chaplain - Be a Mentor

It is a fact that if the Chaplain is doing the job properly, the Chaplain can become overwhelmed in the job at some point. The bigger the post, the sooner it will happen. It is also true that even the best Chaplains have jobs and personal lives which occasionally prevent the Chaplain from being available. It is always good to have back up! It is simply unlikely you, the Chaplain, will be available 24/7.

It is good to look for individuals whom you can call on to step in and take your place at events if you are not available. They are unofficially your "Chaplain Assistants" that you can call on as the need arises.

You are encouraged to look for others that you can train and call on to help you in the work that you do, *particularly at the Post level*. Churches call it discipleship and in business they call it mentoring. Regardless of what we call it, it is a good investment of our time and multiplies our ministry. Begin by surfacing one person that you sense could one day take your place. Here is a simple plan to develop ministry helpers.

Step One involves **Modeling**: "You Watch Me"

Spend time with the individual and take them along with you to the hospital and to funerals, etc. Talk about what you do and model character traits and skills. Introduce them to several articles and resources that are available on the Missouri VFW website at the Chaplain's Corner. <http://myvfw.org/mo/chaplainscorner/>

Step Two involves **Participating**: "We Will Do This Together"

In time have the person participate with you by taking a small part. Remember to praise them for what they do. As they develop confidence and their skill level increases have them take more responsibility.

Step Three involves **Doing**: "You Do it and I Watch You"

Developing Other Future Post Leaders

It will take time to develop good "Chaplain Assistants," but it is well worth the time. In fact such mentorship is key to also developing good commanders, quartermasters, service officers, and for all the appointed positions. As they walk with you and assist you they learn what is what is involved in their respective area and what is involved in running a VFW Post. In the mean time, your members are well cared for and assisted when they need the assistance. When it is time for you to move on, your replacement can follow and keep the care of the membership at a high standard.