

Meet the chaplains . . .



Peter Franson

How would you describe your personality and communication style?

Energetic, thoughtful, friendly, inquisitive, humorous, shy...and sometimes strange.

Tell us about your family, friends, kids, pets.

I come from hearty immigrant stock of central Minnesota. My children carry forward the next generation of that tradition in Madison, San Francisco, and around the world. I have the gift of many great friendships, both lifelong and newly begun. As for pets, I'm a dog guy.

How would others describe you?

Easy to be with, often silly, likes to laugh, helpful, trustworthy, and nonjudgmental.

If someone was looking to work with you as their chaplain, what would you

like them to know?

What we talk about stays between you and me. Period. I know I need to earn your trust, if you are to share anything of significance about your life. You need to know how important I regard confidentiality. Everybody needs to be able to talk with someone. On top of that, I believe everybody needs to know there's someone they can talk to and share anything they wish, without fear it will be shared elsewhere.

What is, in your opinion, the most interesting or strangest thing about you?

That's easy. I've been reclaimed by, and renamed in the power of love by a little girl (my daughter's daughter) who calls me PopPop.

Tell us about your career, education, and experience that led you to workplace chaplaincy.

I'm college educated courtesy of the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota. I took my undergraduate degree in American history to St. Paul, Minnesota's Luther Seminary and subsequently began a career in ordained parish ministry with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I have served in a variety of settings, from large church to small and from solo ministry to large professional staffs. I have also served in specialized chaplaincy settings, in university campus ministry and in chemical dependency treatment center chaplaincy. Along the way my areas of responsibility have been widespread as I worked with people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and socioeconomic status. Since leaving parish ministry I have had the opportunity to do counseling and teaching, as well as work in diverse business settings in areas ranging from strategic planning and processes, to troubleshooting problems and serving on the front lines.



What types of life issues do you have experience helping others with?

Life and death, celebration and sadness, mind and body/illness and health, relationships and loneliness, alienation and belonging, wealth and poverty, marriage and divorce, alcohol/chemical dependency and codependency, singleness, family, nurturing curiosity, creative expression, group/family/system dynamics.

What do you like most about being a workplace chaplain?

I like the people!

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