



# *Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy*

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## **Reference:** Tithing Policy Directive for ACNA Chaplains

**Directive:** The requirement to tithe is Biblical and canonical for clergy and chaplains of the ACNA. Tithing is a spiritual discipline. Chaplains should calculate/determine their appropriate tithe (normally no less than 10%) based upon scripture, canon, and conscience; and order their lives in such a manner as to be financially disciplined to give fully on a regular basis. Chaplains of this jurisdiction are asked that when they present their tithe, they do so on a regular monthly basis through Direct Deposit, Bank or Wire Transfer, or by Check. The use of credit cards to tithe IS NOT acceptable when such action creates an interest-bearing debt upon the person(s) tithing.

**OnRealm:** OnRealm, by Automated Church Systems (ACS), is a software that tracks and monitors our financial receipts of tithes and gifts, ensures compliance with the IRS, and provides giving reports to individual donors. Each chaplain in the Jurisdiction has, or can create, an OnRealm account. Instructions on how to use OnRealm will be provided by the Finance Committee. Chaplains of the JAFC should use OnRealm to present their tithe unless otherwise exempted in writing by the Canon Treasurer.

**General:** The Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy is the canonical residence for all professional chaplains serving in the ACNA. By Canon and Provincial directive, all chaplains representing the ACNA are required to be licensed and participate fully in the JAFC.

Tithing is a requirement for continued “Good Standing.” No later than November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, chaplains will “pledge” for the upcoming year their anticipated tithes and gifts so to aid the Finance Committee in developing a budget for the following year. The Finance Committee will be responsible for providing a form to all chaplains through which such pledges are received. Further, chaplains will make an annual declaration that they have met “Good Standing” requirements, which will include declarations regarding tithes. Good Standing affirmations will be returned in accordance with the policy on Good Standing.

**Endorsed Full-time Chaplains Full-time:** Chaplains serving full-time should present their tithe to the JAFC. Chaplains whose sole source of income is chaplaincy related, but whose work is less than fulltime, are considered full-time and the tithe should be presented to the JAFC.

**Endorsed Chaplains Less than Full-time:** Chaplains who are less than full-time (less than 30 hours per week or seasonal) are not exempt canonically from the tithing requirement. Generally, these chaplains fall into one of three categories:

Bi-Vocational Chaplains are chaplains whose chaplain ministry is paralleled with secular employment. The full tithe is normally presented to the JAFC. Once a chaplain has determined their tithe amount, whether 10% of their income or more, up to twenty percent of the calculated tithe may be presented to the chaplain’s local ACNA parish. If not attending an ACNA church, the full tithe is to be presented to the JAFC.

Bi-Ministerial Chaplains are chaplains whose chaplain ministry is paralleled with vocational parochial or para-church ministry. Once a chaplain has determined their tithe amount, whether 10% of their income or more, one half of the tithe as a minimum should be presented to the JAFC. If a tithing policy exists within the jurisdiction giving oversight of the non-chaplain vocational ministry,

the chaplain should seek guidance from the Finance Committee Chairman. Bi-Ministerial chaplains whose second vocational work or source of income is chaplain related should present the full tithe to the JAFC.

Military National Guard, Reserve or State Militia Chaplains are chaplains serving in manners other than on Extended Active Duty (EAD) or full-time orders. The full tithe based upon the duty performed should be presented to the JAFC. At all other times, tithing should be in accord with this policy.

**Volunteer Endorsed and Associated Chaplains:** Volunteer chaplains are those chaplains who minister without pay in an environment where endorsement is required by an agency or entity. Associated chaplains are those chaplains who have requested a General Letter of Endorsement so they might officially represent themselves as an ACNA chaplain, but do not require official ecclesiastical endorsement with the agency or entity with whom they minister. Most volunteer and associated chaplains do not have a tithing obligation to the JAFC. However, some in this category have no other canonical requirements associated with tithing and in such cases should present their tithe to the JAFC or consider designated giving, in a manner that is supportive of this ministry.

**Exceptional Giving:** The JAFC maintains close and/or direct relationships with several Anglican ministries. Chaplains are encouraged to give to these ministries through gifts above the tithe. To encourage giving to these ministries, this policy affords chaplains the privilege to redirect a portion of their tithe (up to 10% of their calculated tithe) to these ministries:

1. Anglicans for Life
2. The Centurion Project
3. Visions of Grace
4. Anglican Office for Government and International Affairs
5. Anglican Chaplains Adoption Fund
6. The Russell Worrell Benevolence Fund
7. The American Anglican Council
8. Anglican Frontier Missions (AJ Gunther Account)
9. *(Other Anglican Ministries with the pre-approval of the Finance Committee)*

Chaplains who are in the Financial Accountability and Resource Management (FARM) program under the care of the Bishop of the JAFC or a Finance Committee member are exceptional to this policy. Also, Chaplains “church planting” under the Canons of the JAFC are exceptional. These chaplains are to present their tithes in accordance with the direction received from the Bishop or Canon Treasurer.

This Policy supersedes the previous Policy Directive dated March 12, 2012.

Directed this day by my signature on this 9<sup>th</sup>  
Day of October, 2023 in the City of Brierfield,  
Alabama in the Seventeenth Year of my  
Consecration to the Episcopacy,



The Right Reverend Derek LS Jones  
Bishop of the Armed Forces & Chaplaincy