

Chaplaincy – CPE Applications Essays

Length: 2 pages is too short 10 pages is too long. ~5-6 pages is about right. They say that they read these thoughtfully.

They are looking for candidates who are:

- **open** to engaging in this process **with other people**.
- **able to handle crises professionally** when they are on-call.
- **open to learning and new perspectives**, putting aside preconceptions and seeing what's really there.
- **self-aware**.

Personal Reflection on how your friends, family, crises, context, culture, upbringing and important experiences have shaped you:

- Make it clear that you know yourself. Demonstrating **self-awareness** is key.
- Show that you are **open to work with people from all walks of life**.
- Explore **insights** into your spiritual journey and make sense of that.
- Give a reasonably full account of your life and your **most important** relationships. How life has come around. How your life and experiences affected you—what you learned.
- Expose **where your heart is**.
- Show that you are able to **connect emotionally**.
- Show that you are able to be **fully present**.
- Show your willingness to be **open about struggles**. They work from a model of chaplains as **wounded healers**.
- Be clear about **how you work now**.

Conversational essay about a helping incident:

- Learning incident – description about how you changed or what you learned from this incident
- Show that you have the capacity, ability, and desire to learn and change.

What they don't want:

- report
- lists
- recount of autobiography of events without reflection
- focus on past problems