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