

Today at Bethany Daryl's Story

Today at Bethany, my goal as chaplain is to be a supportive and encouraging presence to our staff. Bethany employees carry heavy burdens in the intense work they do every day and in their personal lives. I want them to know we care about them and are praying for them. While no day is typical, my purpose remains the same: to spiritually support our staff in the difficult work they do and in their Christian journey.

I went to seminary and co-pastored a church while doing ministry work for Ukraine. My wife and I went through Bethany to foster and adopt in the early 2000s, and for 12 years I was a chaplain in the health care system. I wasn't looking for a new job, but one day, when I was on Bethany's website, I saw they were looking for a chaplain. I met every requirement they were looking for. I took that as a prompting from God that He may be leading me somewhere new. I applied, and the rest is history.

My days are spent sending out encouraging Bible verses, asking for prayer requests, responding to and following up with people, compiling prayer requests for our prayer group to pray over, visiting Bethany's Michigan branches, planning events that promote community among staff, helping with some of our lesser-known programs, and just making myself available.

Unfortunately, there is only one me, so while I have two other co-chaplains, my primary focus is on our Michigan employees. However, I am figuring out how to pray for the agency as a whole and want our employees everywhere to know I am here to support them however I can. I know not everyone feels comfortable sharing things with someone they don't know, but I hope people feel comfortable entrusting their heavy hearts to me because it is my privilege to support and pray for them.