



PATHWAY TO

**HINDU AMERICAN
CHAPLAINCY**

**A JOINT INITIATIVE:
HAF-HMEC**

*The Hindu American
Chaplaincy National Office
(866) 305-0575*

Hindu Clinical Chaplaincy Initiative

HMEC & HAF

Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference
August 17-18, 2012, San Jose, CA



Background and the Basics



- Pathway to a Hindu American Chaplaincy: An HAF-HMEC Joint Initiative
- Why do Hindu Americans Need Chaplaincy ?
 - Serve the spiritual needs of the Hindu American Community in hospitals, educational institutions, and the military
 - No framework or authorized Hindu Body currently exists to provide the necessary education, training, and endorsement to Hindu Chaplains
- What does a Hindu American Chaplaincy Require?
 - Hindu American Seminary
 - Hindu Accrediting Agency
 - Hindu Religious Endorsing Body
 - Support from the Community

Hindu American Seminary



- Educational institution that will provide an approved course of study in Hindu American belief and practice specifically rooted in Hindu philosophy
- Needs of the Hindu community not currently served by traditional Christian or Jewish seminaries
- Hindu American Seminary would offer 6 week or 6 month certification and advanced degree programs geared towards priests and community leaders interested in becoming Chaplains
- Several schools and universities looking to partner with HMEC and HAF to develop a Seminary within a Hindu American Chaplaincy framework

Hindu Accrediting Agency



- An agency that will certify the general standards of a degree offered at a Hindu American Seminary
- Degrees conferred by a Hindu American Seminary will be easily recognized if the institution is accredited
- An Accrediting Agency will ensure that there are consistent standards for degree programs across various schools and universities
- The Hindu Seminary Accrediting Agency will partner with American theological associations, so the qualifications of Hindu Chaplains are on par with American Chaplains from other faith traditions

Hindu Religious Endorsing Body



- A faith group, denomination or religious organization which endorses individuals from their respective tradition for chaplaincy, or pastoral counseling and care
- A Hindu Religious Endorsing Body will vouch for a Hindu Chaplaincy candidate's credentials and maturity of faith
- This body will create a transparent process of endorsement, which includes clear accountability between the endorser and the endorsed individual
- The organization will be officially recognized as a religious endorsing body by a number of associations

Support from the Community



- Community support is necessary to establish a framework to educate, train, and endorse aspiring Hindu American chaplains who can serve in hospitals, educational institutions, or the military – wherever the community has a need
- A Hindu American Chaplaincy program requires the collaboration of religious and community leaders, institutions, and temples from across the country
- HAF and HMEC are seeking to engage and involve Hindu leaders and organizations from diverse sampradayas in creating a Hindu American Chaplaincy

Conclusion



- A Hindu American Chaplaincy is urgently required to serve the unique needs of the current and future generations of Hindu Americans
- Most importantly, it is an initiative created **by** and **for** the Hindu American community
- How can you help support this critical project?
 - Make a Donation
 - Volunteer your Time
 - Become a Hindu Chaplain
- For more information, contact the Hindu American Chaplaincy National Office at [**866-305-0575**](tel:866-305-0575)