

# Biography

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## Biography

### Reverend Pratima Dharm (Retired, U.S. Army Chaplain)

#### Summary – Experience, Skills and Core Competencies:

- 14 years of interfaith Minister/Chaplain experience and skills in **Community Building, Justice Work, Fundraising, Interfaith Event Planning** in the US Military and civilian arena.
- 1 year as Associate Pastor for the Traditional Protestant Worship Service at Fort Stewart, Georgia. 2006-2007
- 1 year as Lead Pastor for the Traditional Protestant Worship Service and the Charismatic Worship Service, Q-West, Iraq. 2007-2008
- 3 years as Lead Hindu Minister/Pastor for the Hindu Worship Service at Walter Reed, 2011-2014. All 4 Ministerial positions required and included knowledge and practice of **Liturgical Design**.
- Competent in Public Relations, **Relational Justice Work within and outside the Congregation**, Conduct Training, Outreach and Communications (**Strong oral and written skills**), Event planning and Execution.
- Completed 5 units of CPE, 200 hrs Yoga Teacher Training and Yoga Nidra Level I (iREST) Certifications. 2014, 2015
- Organized and lead several **Humanitarian Aid Missions** in Kurdistan, Iraq (US Army) and for Earthquake and Flood victims in India. 2007-2008 and 1993-1995
- Organized major diversity/multicultural, inter faith events within and outside the Department Of Defense. 2006-2017
- Conducted hundreds of Suicide Prevention & Awareness classes as Lead Suicide Prevention & Lead Resiliency Chaplain in the US Army. 2011-2015
- Chaplain for CAUSE USA Annual Fundraiser Gala for Wounded Warriors. 2010-2014

#### Work Experience:

**September 2017 to present:** Began working as **part time Pastor** for Goodloe Unitarian Universalist Church in Bowie, MD

**May 2016 to Dec 2017: On Call Chaplain** at John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD

**Aug 2015 to Jul 2016: Intern Minister** at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, Burke, VA

**Mar 2015 Retired** as a Chaplain from US Army

**Oct 2014-Jan 2014** Hindu Chaplain, Georgetown University

**Aug 2013 – Mar 2015: Working in Integrative Health Services** at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center providing Mind Body skills, Yoga etc. to patients and service members with combat stress and PTSD.

**Aug 2010 – June 2013– Chaplain Clinician at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD.**

**June 2009 – June 2010:** Chaplain Resident at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, GA.

**Oct 2008 – May 2009: Wounded Warrior Battalion Chaplain** serving approximately 500 Soldiers at Fort Stewart, GA

**Aug 2007- August 2008:** Deployed to Q-West, Iraq for a year as a battalion Chaplain for over 3000 Soldiers.

**Sept 2006 – Jul 2007: Served as the battalion Chaplain** for the Special Troops Battalion, Fort Stewart (3ID), GA

**June 2003 – Dec 2005: Student,** Ashland Theological Seminary (M.A. Theology) Spiritual Formation and Church History minor. Also served Indian Pentecostal Church as Youth Minister and Women's Minister

**Feb 2002 to April 2003: Assistant Teacher, Elementary & Middle School,** Massasoit School, Braintree, MA.

**Nov 2001 to Feb 2002: Worked as a Social Worker at Chauncy Hall Academy,** Westboro, MA.

**May 2001 to Nov 2001: Crisis Clinician, Riverside Community Care, Crisis Team,** Norwood, MA.

**June 1994- June 2000: Counselor,** Dr. Mathew Verghese and Dr. Usha Mathew Homeopathic and Wellness Center, India

**June 1992 – June 1993: Customer Relations Executive,** Times Of India, Mumbai, India

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**Education:** 2016 – Masters of Divinity degree from Ashland Theological Seminary, Ohio. 2005: Master of Arts in Practical Theology, Ashland Seminary, Ohio. 2000: Master of Arts in Psychology from Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu. 1992: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

S.N.D.T University Mumbai, India.

**Eccelesiastical Endorsement:** Unitarian Universalist Association as a Unitarian Universalist Minister.

**Professional Training:**

- At Present: Cleared interview and approved for Board Certification under Association Of Professional Chaplains (on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017).
- Community Organizing Training, IAF, 2016
- Completed Yoga Teacher Training (200 RYT), Rockville, MD. 2015
- Completed Level I Yoga Nidra (iREST) Certification, Petaluma, CA, 2014.
- Strong Bonds Instructor Training for married and single Soldiers and Spouses, Level II, Seattle, Washington from the Franklin Covey Institute, 2011
- Clinical Pastoral Education (4 Units, Residency), Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Augusta, GA, 2010
- Completed Family Wellness Instructor Course Certificate, Seattle, Washington. 2008
- Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Augusta, GA from the Franklin Covey Institute, 2008
- Chaplain Officer, Basic Career Course, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, 2006.
- Completed all requisite MEDCOM (Medical Command) training including Equal Opportunity, Diversity, Sexual Harassment in the US Army. 2007-2015
- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Training, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, 2006
- Strong Bonds Instructor Training for married and single Soldiers and Spouses, Level I, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, 2006.
- CPE (1unit), Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Michigan, 2004.

**Awards and Achievements:** First Hindu Chaplain in the history of the Department of Defense, the First female chaplain of Indian descent in the U.S Army. Awards include the **Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon.** 2007 – The first female chaplain to give a sermon at the Roman Catholic Church in Zhako, Kurdishtan, Iraq. Received the India Abroad Person of the Year Award for Special Achievement, 2011, 2013 – Invited by Govt of Trinidad/Tobago as chief guest and motivational speaker for Diwali. A few major press articles and TV interviews: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-16099481> (Interview with BBC News), [http://www.hinduismtoday.com/archives/2012/1-3/pdf/Hinduism-Today\\_Jan-Feb-Mar](http://www.hinduismtoday.com/archives/2012/1-3/pdf/Hinduism-Today_Jan-Feb-Mar)

[2012.pdf](#)(Introducing President Obama in the white house Diwali celebration in 2011), <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-1Fxmo-8i0> (India Abroad Awards Ceremony). Started a poor children's school at age 9 under my class teacher (a nun) which still runs to this day in northern India in 1979. Organized Humanitarian Aid Missions for the Latur Earthquake and Flood victims (displaced Tribals) in India as a young college student in 1993-1995. Organized 10 Humanitarian Aid Missions for the Kurdish women and children (including the present day persecuted Yazidis in Iraq) and received the Bronze Star Medal for my peace efforts during the US/Iraq war in 2007-2008.

**Technical Proficiencies:** Microsoft Office 2010 Suite (Excel, MS Word, PowerPoint).

**Oral & Written Proficiency: Strong Public Speaker & Writer**

**Language Proficiency:** English, Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Sanskrit.

**Hobbies:** Cooking and Baking, Travel, Arts and Crafts, Cross Cultural Study, Mysticism and World History.

**Social Involvement:** Mosaic Makers (Multiculturalism), Together, Black Lives Matter and Action in Montgomery, Prince George's County and Montgomery County Interfaith dialogue and events, South Asian Military Family Support Network, Founder, advisor.