UAW CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

One of the lesser known programs of the UAW draws its inspiration from the very core of what founded our union compassion and caring. The UAW Chaplaincy program started in the mid-eighties as a pilot project at Local 599 in Flint, Michigan. At the time, many UAW members particularly those in the auto industry were experiencing extreme pressures as domestic car sales plummeted and the lingering effects of the oil crisis led to huge waves of layoffs. UAW leaders recognized that a program was needed to help members adjust through the difficult times and avoid personal crisis.

Despite what its name suggests, the program is nondenominational. Where some worksites have EAP (Employee Assistance Program) representatives, chaplains work in conjunction with them to assist members. They can also use a team approach by including the bargaining committee and the Unit and/or Local Community Services Committee. From divorce to bankruptcy, depression to substance abuse, chaplains are a key part of helping our UAW family through hard times.

The chaplains also can assist many related matters such as weddings, baptisms, or funerals.

In the words of Vice President and Director of the Chaplaincy Program, Jimmy Settles, the chaplains are ready to engage, support, and prosper.

The UAW Local 724 Chaplain is Everett Henderson, is a pastor at Eternal Life Ministries, a nondenominational group in Lansing, Michigan. Everett is a member of the Dakkota Integrated Systems Unit of Local 724.

If you are in need, please contact Everett at chaplain@uawlocal724.org or leave a message with your contact information at UAW Local 724 at 517-482-7377.

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