

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association**  
**RESOLUTION**

**CHAPLAINCY**

1992

Whereas Bikur Holim (visiting the sick) is a principal Jewish community value and caring for those who are ill is a basic tenet of Judaism;

Whereas chaplaincy has become a rabbinic role of professional standing, served by a professional organization, the National Association of Jewish Chaplains that addresses the concerns of Jewish chaplains of all denominations;

Whereas while the Jewish community has made great strides in the provision of services for the elderly, now the largest segment of its population, this group nevertheless lacks sufficient pastoral care to meet the growing need;

Whereas Jewish chaplains, the rabbis who contribute substantially to the care of the Jewish elderly and infirm have historically lacked professional standing appropriate to their rabbinic role;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association affirms the rabbinic and professional status of colleagues who serve as chaplains and calls for their full recognition through the Jewish community and throughout society;

Further, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association calls upon those institutions employing chaplains to provide compensation, pension, medical insurance, vacation allotment and support for continuing educational opportunities (including but not limited to a convention allowance) appropriate to their professional and rabbinic standing;

Further, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association calls upon its own leadership for increased sensitivity to the concerns and needs of colleagues in chaplaincy in the planning of programs and professional services.