

## Chaplain

[Neither the By-Laws nor the rules of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee provide for a chaplain. In 1994, the Chair invited a member of the Central Committee, who was also a member of the clergy, to serve as Chaplain. The principal duties of the Chaplain were to make counseling services available to members of the Committee and to give an invocation at the beginning of Central Committee meetings.<sup>1</sup> After that member retired from the Central Committee, the Chair (on an experimental basis) invited others (both from within the Central Committee and clergy from outside the Committee) to deliver an invocation at the beginning of Central Committee meetings. At the request of members of the Committee, that experiment was discontinued after the April 8, 1997 meeting of the Committee. ]

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<sup>1</sup> *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* (10<sup>th</sup> edition, p. 446) provides that if an organization has a chaplain, the chaplain usually “recites or leads invocations and benedictions where such prayers are offered at the opening and closing of meetings or other events, and who—if a clergyman—serves the organization in that capacity in such manner as it may require.”