

GUIDELINES FOR MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS SUPERVISION

The CREDENTIALS DIVISION – of the Church of God representing the Canadian Church of God Ministries has established an ongoing program of supervision for those persons applying for licensing or ordination.

PURPOSES:

The purposes of the Ministerial Supervisory Program are:

1. To assist the candidate in implementing the procedures outlined and adopted by the credentialing body responsible for the minister's certification. Meetings with one's supervisor supplement interviews and meetings with Credentials.
2. To provide the candidate with support and on-the-job tutelage in the practical aspects of ministry. The supervisor shall serve as friend and teacher to the minister during this time, both encouraging and prompting him/her in his/her development.
3. To provide the minister with a view of him/herself through the eye of a trusted friend and objective colleague. It shall be the responsibility of the supervisor to interpret to the minister how he/she is perceived in relationships with others and in his/her approach to ministry. This may require the supervisor to charitably confront the minister with any weaknesses, which may be obvious.
4. To provide Credentials an opportunity to monitor the minister's progress and to assess his/her readiness for ordination.

SCHEDULE:

The supervising minister shall meet with the candidate approximately once a month for the period between the candidate's first interview with Credentials and his/her approval for ordination. The exact schedule shall be worked out by the supervisor and candidate.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE AUTHORIZED CREDENTIALS DIVISION:

1. To provide guidance to each candidate for ordination as early in the process as possible.
2. To contact and ascertain the supervisory minister's willingness to be involved before formally assigning a candidate to him.
3. To make these guidelines available to every supervisory minister.

EXPECTATIONS OF CANDIDATES:

1. To take the initiative in following through on procedures required for licensing and ordination.
2. To actively initiate and regularly attend meetings with supervisory minister.
3. To make a determined effort to follow through on the counsel, suggestions, etc. of the supervising pastor.

EXPECTATIONS OF SUPERVISORY MINISTER:

1. To be familiar with the necessary procedures for licensing and ordination.
2. To help the candidate set up a regular schedule of supervisory appointments. These appointments should provide a block of time in which the candidate may reflect on both personal and ministerial matters related to his/her candidacy for ordination.
3. To be aware that the candidate will be interviewed by Credentials in regard to the following and to assist the candidate in his/her preparation to respond:
 - a. Sense of God's call.
 - b. General fitness (health, attitudes, family circumstances, attitude of spouse, opportunities for and possibilities of future ministry).
 - c. Theological understanding.
 - d. Personal relationships and leadership style.
 - e. Background as an active member in Christian fellowship.
 - f. Scripture tests for ministry.
 - g. Education qualifications; completed and future plans.
4. Further, the supervisory pastor may offer opportunities for observation; that is, to observe the supervisory minister in as many roles as possible (counseling, weddings, funerals, teaching, preaching, worship leadership, committee responsibilities, etc.)
5. The supervisor may provide or suggest resources for additional information or study (books, magazines, resource centers, etc.)

OBJECTIVES:

1. The primary objective is to facilitate the candidate's personal growth, helping him/her to:
 - a. Solidify his/her own personal direction.
 - b. Reach an initial definition of his/her own understanding of ministry.
 - c. Become aware of the complexity of human relationships in parish ministry.
 - d. Further his/her own maturing style of ministry.
 - e. Develop skills and assume responsibilities in various areas of ministry.

2. Opportunity may be given to the candidate to discuss or evaluate his/her own progress in the following areas:
 - a. Preaching and teaching - including the communication of the Christian faith and doctrine in sermon, lesson, evangelism, meditation, etc.
 - b. Worship - including leadership in worship; conducting ordinances; worship planning.
 - c. Pastoral care and calling - including hospital calling; crises counseling; membership development; recruiting volunteer leadership, etc.
 - d. Leadership and management - including group dynamics, interpersonal relations with church leadership, church business, office management.
 - e. Personal Devotional Development - including prayer and acquaintance with devotional classics as well as the Bible.

Questions about any or all of these procedures should be forwarded to:

CREDENTIALS DIVISION

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