

**CANADIAN CHURCH OF GOD MINISTRIES
CREDENTIALS DIVISION**

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALING

MC

**The Three Levels of Credentialing for Vocational Ministers:
(as stated in the Credentials Manual -2011 Edition, Church of God, Anderson, IN)**

Level 1. COMMISSIONING

The purpose of commissioning is to recognize and support one who articulates a sense of call to ministry. It grants a preliminary ministerial status and inclusion on the approved list. Credentialing bodies may commission a person for terms of one or two years, at their discretion, depending on circumstances and qualifications. Terms are renewable as the credentialing committee may judge appropriate.

A commission is given on the condition of an annual review by the credentialing body. It may be voided by action of the credentialing body if deemed advisable. It may be renewed so long as the credentialing body judges the minister worthy of such continuing credentialing. Being commissioned does not necessarily imply that the candidate eventually will be licensed and/or ordained.

Level 2. LICENSING

Licensing is a second level of credentialing, one that acknowledges a minister's call to the Christian ministry and a corresponding commitment to vocational involvement. Licensing affords a limited measure of recognition and accountability. While it may serve as a step toward ordination, licensing should not be viewed as the promise of ordination. Licensing often satisfies legal requirements, as well as requirements imposed by such institutions as hospitals, nursing homes, and jails when these provide opportunities for pastoral care.

Credentialing bodies may license ministers for terms of one or two years, at their discretion, depending on circumstances and the qualifications of the minister. A license is given on the condition of an annual review by the credentialing body. It may be voided by action of the credentialing body if deemed advisable. It may be renewed if the credentialing body judges the minister worthy of such continuing credentialing.

Level 3. ORDINATION

Ordination, the final step of vocational credentialing, recognizes a minister's call and vocational commitment to the Christian ministry. It provides for accountability to the appropriate credentialing body and also satisfies certain legal requirements of the state or province. Ordination usually is needed by persons who serve as leaders of local congregations, in institutional ministries, missionary endeavours, and certain other formal capacities. Ordination is to be granted only when it is strategic to the performance of vocational ministry to which one is called, and when its recipient is found suitable for ordination by virtue of divine call, appropriate character, spirit, commitment, preparation, beliefs, and performance.

GENERAL PROCESS:

Commissioning & Licensing (Level 1 and 2)

1. Candidate to write a letter to the Credentials Division declaring a divine call to ministry.
2. Upon the receipt of the above letter/request, a packet will be mailed to the applicant containing the following forms/information:
 - Ministerial Recognition and Certification (MC & MRC)
 - Process for Recognition and Certification of Ministers
 - Code of Ethics for Ministers
 - Ministerial Recognition Application (MRA)
 - Ministerial Endorsement Form (MEF)
 - Ministerial Development Survey (MDS) (6 copies for references)
3. Upon receipt of completed forms MRA, Minister's Development Survey, MEF, along with the six (6) copies of form MDS, an interview with the Credentials Division will be scheduled with the applicant.
4. Following the scheduled interview, the applicant will be asked to complete a Bible Competency Exam (under supervision) and the District Office will proceed to apply for a background inquiry, including the Credit Bureau and National Criminal Record.
5. Credentials will assign a supervising pastor, who will oversee the development of the Life and Ministry Plan (L.A.M.P.) with the supervisee. A book list of Church of God materials and a continuing education track will be recommended by the Credentials Committee. The supervising pastor will work together with the supervisee on following through with these recommendations.

6. Follow-Up Interview for the Licensed Minister and the decision regarding Ordination: Based in part on the supervising pastor's reports and the life and ministry plan submitted and the Recognition for Ordination from the Local Congregation, the Credentials Division decides on, and conveys to the candidate, a recommendation either to ordain, postpone ordination and renew the license, deny ordination and renew the license, or deny both ordination and license approval.

Ordination (Level 3)

1. Candidate to complete the Ministerial Ordination Application form and send it to the Credentials Division.
2. Upon receipt of the Ministerial Ordination Application form, an interview is to be scheduled with the Credentials Division. Dependant on the outcome of the interview, the Credentials Division will make the decision regarding the approval of ordination.
3. Following approval, a date for the Ordination service will be set.
4. The candidate will then complete the Declarations and Convictions sheet as instructed, submitting this information to the Credentials Division prior to the Ordination service. These Declarations and Convictions will be read by the candidate during the Ordination service.
5. The Ordination Covenant is to be signed by the candidate during the Ordination service and a copy filed with both the assembly and Church of God Ministries in Anderson, Indiana.