



Information for Credential Candidates

INFORMATION FOR CREDENTIAL APPLICANTS

For Ministerial Recognition in the Fellowship of the Assemblies of God

Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God
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10-13 rev

This manual has been prepared to give helpful information to those who may seek ministerial recognition in the Assemblies of God Fellowship.

Ministerial credentials are for the purpose of recognizing God-called leadership and ministry within the Assemblies of God. They are not granted to identify lay ministries within the local church such as teachers, children's workers and those who preach occasionally. It is expected that these ministries are common to many and are known within the local body. Credentials are granted to those who show a genuine call of God for leadership and ministry as a life-calling.

There is a regular procedure for all candidates for ministerial recognition to follow. They should acquaint themselves with the teachings, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship as revealed through the constitution and Bylaws of both the General Council and the Montana District Council. A copy of the Constitution of the General Council may be obtained from the General Secretary, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield MO 65802. You can also obtain a copy from their web site: ag.org. A copy of the District Constitution and Bylaws may be obtained from the Network Office, 2147 Overland Ave. Ste. 100, Billings MT 59102.

All applications for ministerial recognition are to be made through the Network, and not to the General Council according to the rules found in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council.

PREREQUISITES

No authority is given to the Credentials Committee to grant recognition to candidates for the ministry who may have become entangled in their marriage relationship, with the exception of a preconversion divorce. The General Council Constitution and Bylaws makes our position clear in this matter. Neither is any authority given to license or ordain anyone to the ministry who has not received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit in Pentecostal fullness, according to the pattern of Acts 2:4. Both the experience and doctrinal belief of the candidates must conform to the standards for the ministry as set forth in the Word of God.

PROPER MOTIVES

A candidate should be sure that in applying for the recognition of the Assemblies of God his or her motives are pure. No one should apply to the committee whose chief thought is that they may have a paper to show that he is a minister, and that by this paper they will be received by the churches in the Fellowship. Even if the Credentials Committee were to grant credential under such circumstances, the recipient of same would soon find them of little value. A ministry anointed by the Holy Spirit will prove to be the best credential that one can have.

The Assemblies of God Fellowship is founded on the principles of voluntary unity and cooperation. Ministers of other faiths are not solicited by its members. Every applicant ought to feel that the fellowship of the Assemblies of God is their fold, that they belong there, that they are one with these people of the same precious faith, and their principles, purposes and practices are in full accord with them. One should come to this conclusion without any pressure from any of its members. If this be the motive and is acceptable to the Credentials Committee, the relationship will be mutually beneficial and result in blessing to the kingdom of God.

MINISTERS FROM OTHER FELLOWSHIPS

An applicant who may appear before our Credentials Committee having been ordained or licensed by some other reputable church body, will be expected to satisfy the Committee that their past record is above reproach. Such applicants will be acceptable on their own merits and the recommendations of the church body with whom formerly associated. An exchange of papers will be granted to those who meet the criteria of the General Council. Applicants for ministerial recognition who may have secured a sort of ordination through mail-order ministerial bureaus, or through the instrumentality of questionable church fellowship, will find that their ordination will not be accepted by our Credentials Committee. They must, therefore, come through the regular channels prescribed by our Fellowship, and will receive recognition according to their character, experience, training, and qualifications for the ministry.

TYPES OF CREDENTIALS

The Assemblies of God fellowship gives recognition in the following levels of ministry:

A. The Certified Minister

A beginner in the Gospel ministry, the Certified Minister is one who shows evidence of a call, ability to minister the Word with some degree of leadership. Ministry Certification will be granted especially to those persons in local assemblies who prove themselves faithful and recognize that God is calling them to broader service as assistant pastor or perhaps to assist the pastor in the opening of and caring for dependent assemblies in pioneer fields. Their relationship is dependent upon the pastor under whose oversight they may be working, and upon whose recommendation they may have received their papers.

B. The Licensed Minister

Those who give clear evidence of a divine call and have received practical experience in evangelistic or pastoral work, and whose evident purpose is to devote their entire time to the work of the ministry will be eligible for a License to Preach.

C. The Ordained Minister

Those of mature experience and qualifications who are able to undertake the responsibilities of the Full Gospel ministry, and whose ministry is proven acceptable, may be granted full ordination. All ordinations take place under the auspices of the District in conjunction with the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee.

POLICY OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Montana District Presbytery is the District Credentials Committee. Deeply conscious of the responsibilities resting upon them, the Credentials Committee will be slow to act in the recognition of all candidates. There are many laymen in our churches who have ability to preach, but who would find themselves clearly out of harmony with the will of God should they seek to enter the ministry as their life work. There are others who have ability to preach and to care for smaller assemblies. Their qualifications have been recognized and a License to Preach granted, but their ministry is largely local. Men of such qualifications have held a License to Preach in some of our districts for many years without being ordained. Ordination should be granted to those whose ministry is of such a marked nature that it will receive more than local acceptance.

The Credentials Committee is not bound to issue a License to Preach to those holding Certificate of Ministry, until the candidate's fitness shall justify the action. Neither will it of necessity grant ordination to those who have held a License to Preach for two full consecutive years. Ordination is granted only on the grounds of the candidate's having met the requirements of our General and District Councils and the assurance that the qualifications and experience of the candidate fit him for a full Pentecostal ministry which will be generally acceptable in any of the churches of the District.

IMPROVING ONE'S MINISTRY

Provision has been made for the development and perfecting of all ministries, and such provisions will be recommended to all candidates appearing before the Credentials Committee. This provision includes Bible School training, correspondence courses with proper examinations thereupon, and oversight of experienced pastors, evangelists or District officers, etc.

No discrimination is made against those holding first papers. All certified ministers and licentiates are given as much consideration by the district officers in their various fields of labor, as those who have received ordination. They are expected to comply with the agreements adopted by the General and District Councils and to cooperate with the district officary in all constitutional decisions.

FINANCIAL POLICY

The financial policy of the Montana District calls for 100% of the ministerial income tithe to be given to the district with the exception of that amount required as dues to the General Council. These amounts are subject to change.

<u>District Council</u>			<u>General Council</u>
If not receiving ministry income a minimum contribution annually of...			
Ordained	\$180.	\$15/month (minimum)	\$25/month = \$300.00 year
Licensed	\$120.	\$10/month	\$20/month = \$240.00 year
Certified	\$ 120.	\$10/month	\$15/month = \$180.00 year

Send district dues to the district and general dues to the General Council. There is no fee for retired ministers. Ministers who may not have a ministerial income are REQUIRED to contribute a minimum of the amounts listed above to the Montana District Council. District ththes should be paid monthly.

The financial policy for the Network and General Council may be amended from time to time. It is expected that the minister should keep current with these policies and comply willingly. Failure to adhere to a strict standard of stewardship as leaders will bring hurt to our churches and shall be grounds for dismissal from the ministerial fellowship.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION

Each applicant shall:

- Give evidence of a genuine born again experience according to John 3:3;
- Be baptized in water according to Matthew 28:19;
- Have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4;
- Be a member of a local Assemblies of God church;
- Have a character above reproach;
- Give evidence of the divine call of God upon his life to the ministry;

Be in full agreement with the Assemblies of God doctrinal position and policy; and
Be willing to seek counsel of his brethren in the ministry.

We disapprove of any married person holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either partner has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or the marriage was annulled or dissolved for reasons of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud.

Applicants for ordination must be 23 years of age, have held a License to Preach and been engaged in active ministry for at least two full consecutive years, and have been a member of the Montana District for one full year.

Also note General Council Bylaws - Article VII, Sections 1,2,4,6.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

1. The applicant shall make known his desire for ministerial recognition by writing or calling the District Office. An application will be sent to him. The application, all Bible College or Berean University transcripts and reference forms must be returned to the District Secretary and in the District Office no later than October 15th. . These must be filled out completely and returned with a recent photograph of yourself, a \$150.00 non-refundable filing fee and a copy of your social security card. He should also seek to establish contact with the presbyter in the section of his residence.
2. Applications and transcripts are checked by the District Secretary.
3. Those who meet the General Council's credential requirements are forwarded to the Sectional Presbyter who arranges for written testing and oral interviews. A sheet will be mailed to you from the district office to help you prepare for this exam.
4. The Sectional Presbyter/Credential's Committee makes recommendations of candidates to the District Presbytery by December 17th. The Presbytery then interviews candidates for License/Ordination at their January meeting, and approves Certificate of Ministry Candidates.
5. The approved applicant's information is forwarded to the General Council Credentials committee, which makes the final determinations.
6. Those approved are recognized at the District Council session held in March or April.

REQUIRED STUDIES

The Montana Network has adopted the correspondence course for ministerial training as recommended by the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. An up-to-date list of courses will be provided upon request for those who have not graduated from a recognized Assemblies of God Bible College.

RENEWALS

Certified Ministers credentials, Licenses to Preach, Specialized Ministries Licenses and Ordained Ministers shall be renewed annually by the General Council after approval of the Network.

Renewal of Certified Ministers credentials will be predicated on one having preached a minimum of 12 times during the year, except in the case of ill health, or infirmity. Licensed and Ordained ministers shall meet the requirement of having preached at least 15 times annually. Compliance with Network standards of ethics, morality, doctrine and financial stewardship will be expected for renewal.

TRANSFERS

When a minister moves from the Montana District to take up residence in another district he should request a transfer. He will be issued a transfer unless there are definite charges preferred against him.

Exceptions may be made for ministers moving to serve at General Headquarters, for those who are retired from active ministry, for those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty, for those who are serving on the faculties of Assemblies of God schools, for those who are appointed missionaries retaining membership in their home districts, for evangelists residing outside their home districts, and for students in schools outside their home districts.

Ministers coming from another district to pastor in the Montana District shall be expected to transfer within 90 days of entrance into their new pastorate.

REINSTATEMENTS

Applicants for reinstatement meet the requirements of the General Council bylaws. And application form for reinstatement will be provided by the district.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Traditional avenues of study followed by most applicants seeking credentials.

Endorsed AG School (Biblical/Theology/Ministerial Studies or other church-related Major)	Non-AG Bible School or Seminary (Biblical/Theology/Ministerial Studies or other church-related major and AG History, Missions, and Governance and A Spirit-Empowered Church)	Berean List of approved courses (2020) (Previous lists found on page 196-199)
Certified - 2 years or 48 hours (qualifies if applicant has graduated with a non-Biblical major, not including transfer credits) Licensed - 3 years or 72 hours (not including transfer credits) Ordained - 4 years or 96 hours (not including transfer credits) American Indian College-SAGU, Phoenix, AZ Assemblies of God Theological Seminary-EU, Springfield, MO Bethany University, Scotts Valley, CA (closed) Caribbean Theological College, Bayamon, PR Central Bible College, Springfield, MO (consolidated) Christ Mission College aka Latin American Bible Institute-TX, San Antonio, TX Evangel University, Springfield, MO Global University, Springfield, MO Korean Assemblies of God Theological School, Flushing, NY Latin American Bible Institute-CA, La Puente, CA Native American Bible College, Shannon, NC North Central University, Minneapolis, MN Northpoint Bible College, Haverhill, MA Northwest University, Kirkland, WA Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL Southwestern AG University, Waxahachie, TX Trinity Bible College, Ellendale, ND University of Valley Forge, Phoenixville, PA Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA Western Bible College, Phoenix, AZ (closed)	There are so many schools that a comprehensive list is impossible to put together, so please carefully evaluate transcripts from schools not endorsed by the Alliance for AG Higher Education. If applicant has completed a program of study comparable to that at endorsed AG schools, approval can be recommended with the completion of <i>AG History, Missions, and Governance</i> and <i>A Spirit-Empowered Church</i> . At the discretion of the district, other courses may be required if the school is not Pentecostal in doctrine.	<div> Certified </div> New Testament Survey Old Testament Survey Christ in the Synoptic Gospels Introduction to Hermeneutics Relationships & Ethics in Ministry Beginning Ministerial Internship Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine Intro to Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective A/G History, Missions, & Gov. A Spirit-Empowered Church (required Jan 2019)
		<div> Licensed </div> Acts Prison Epistles The Local Church in Evangelism Romans Introduction to Homiletics Effective Leadership Intro to A/G Missions Conflict Management Intermediate Ministerial Internship Eschatology
		<div> Ordained </div> Corinthian Correspondence Pentateuch Poetic Books Preaching in the Contemporary World Church Admin, Finance, & Law Pastoral Ministry Advanced Ministerial Internship Prayer and Worship
		Other Approved Schools (Plus <i>AG History, Missions, and Governance</i> and <i>A Spirit-Empowered Church</i>) Asia Bible Training Center Asia Pacific Theological Seminary

Other approved avenues of study in which educational requirements can be met.

Church Based Bible Institutes Current as of 9/30/2020	District School of Ministry Current as of 9/18/2020	Additional Educational Tracks (see pages 223-254 of 2020 District Secretary's Manual for details)
Allison Park Leadership Academy - Allison Park, Arise School of Ministry - Brandon, FL Bridges Christian College - New Orleans, LA Catalyst School of Ministry - Asheboro, NC Calvary Commission/Calvary Bible Institute - Lindale, TX Center for Theological Studies - Sacramento, CA (Fast Track Bible Program for certified and licensed) Center for Theological Studies-various locations City Bible Institute - St. Louis, MO Columbus Leadership Campus - Columbus, GA Epic Bible College and Graduate School - Sacramento, CA Generations School of Ministry - Turlock, CA Glad Tidings School of Ministry - West Lawn, PA H.C. Lafferty Bible Institute & Bethel School of Supernatural Discipleship - Eureka, CA Lighthouse Bible School - Sonoma, CA Multicultural Theological Institute - Orlando, FL Oasis School of Ministry - Clarksdale, MS Pathway - Sacramento, CA Reyah Bible College - Citrus Heights, CA Southern Latin Bible Institute - Lawrenceville, GA Spanish Eastern Bible Institute - various locations	Alaska Appalachian Arizona Arkansas Central Georgia Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Michigan Midwest Latin Minnesota Mississippi Nebraska New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina Northern New England Ohio Peninsular Florida Pennsylvania-Delaware Potomac Rocky Mountain South Carolina South Central Hispanic Southern California Southern New England Southwest Tennessee Texas Gulf Hispanic Texas Louisiana Hispanic West Florida West Texas Wisconsin-No Michigan Wyoming	AGTS on-ramp to Ministerial Credentialing Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Deaf International Media Ministries Evangel University - 61 credits special track Evangel University-special track Evangel University Credentialing Seminar Global University - 2nd Bachelor of Arts Programs Latin American Bible Institute, San Antonio, TX Live! Dead Educational Track, Cairo, Egypt North Central Ministerial Studies Program Northpoint Bible College-special track Northwest University-special track SUM Bible College and Theological Seminary Southern California School of Ministry Southeastern University-The Academy Southwestern AG University-special track Trinity Bible College-special track Urban Bible Training Centers University of Valley Forge YSO-Youth Studies Online