

CREENTIALING PROCESS

Every Christian disciple has a ministry, and all who are called should be accountable. *Ministerial credentialing*, however, relates to particular vocational calls and carries with it both recognition and accountability. Credentials are covenantal; to accept such credentials is to become accountable to the credentialing assembly. Credentialing in the Church of God may take the form of **ordination, licensing, or commissioning**. Each requires that certain specifications be met for ministry requirements and accountability.

COMMISSION:

The purpose of commissioning is to recognize and support one who articulates a sense of call and grants the applicant ministerial status and inclusion on the approved list. A ministerial commission may be granted for terms of one or two years at the discretion of the Credentials Committee and depending on the individual circumstances and qualifications of the minister.

LICENSING:

Licensing 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. The Credentials Committee may license ministers for terms of one or two years at their discretion, depending on circumstances and the qualifications of the minister.

ORDINATION:

The purpose of ordination is to recognize a minister's call to the Christian ministry and that minister's commitment to vocational involvement in ministry. Ordination provides for accountability to the credentialing assembly and also satisfies certain legal requirements of the state. Ordination is to be granted only when it is strategic to performance of the 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.

(Credentials Manual of the Church of God, 2004, p. 15)

STEPS TO CREDENTIALING: (FORMS AND/OR PACKETS CAN BE REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO SHANNON MONTGOMERY AT SHANNON@FLCOG.ORG)

I. Commission

1. Submit Letter of Intent and request Application Packet
2. Submit completed Application forms and fee:
 - a. Ministerial Recognition Form
 - b. Application Fee - \$100.00 (non-refundable)
 - c. Release of Information Form
 - d. Ministerial Endorsement Form
 - e. Ministerial Development Survey List
 - f. Ministerial Development Surveys (6 surveys: 3 from credentialed ministers, 3 from laypersons)
 - g. Background Screening
 - 1) Affidavit of Good Moral Character
 - 2) Local Police Check
 - h. Educational Documentation Form
3. Schedule and complete evaluations
 - a. Psychological Evaluation
 - b. Bible Competency Exam
4. Interview with Credentials Sub-Committee

II. License

1. Write and submit Doctrinal Position Statement (DPS)
2. Write and submit four Reading Reports (per year of Commissioning)
3. Work toward completing Educational Requirements – Florida Ministers Institute or accepted waivers
4. Repeat Bible Competency Exam (if did not receive passing score previously)
5. Meet with assigned mentor monthly
6. Interview with Credentials Sub-Committee

III. Ordination

1. Write and submit Life And Ministry Plan (LAMP)
2. Write and submit four Reading Reports (per year of Licensing)
3. Complete Educational Requirements – Florida Ministers Institute or accepted waivers
4. Repeat Bible Competency Exam (if did not receive passing score previously)
5. Meet with assigned mentor monthly
6. Submit two final Ministerial Development Surveys from two credentialed Church of God ministers
7. Interview with Credentials Committee