



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINISTRY NETWORK

of the Assemblies of God

Information, Requirements and Procedures
for Obtaining Ministerial Credentials

6295 Lehman Drive, Suite 202
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
PH: 719-522-0195

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Please read each section of this booklet carefully.

If you have questions that are not adequately addressed in this booklet, please contact the office of the Network Secretary-Treasurer by phone (719)522-0195 or by email: maragon@rmdc.org

General Guidelines

1. Purpose

The purpose of a ministry credential is to recognize those who have a genuine call to Christian ministry and to properly certify that ministry. Certification does not precede ministry but is rather an acknowledgement of what God has already begun to do through an individual.

2. Recognition of Ministerial Candidates

The granting of credentials is a serious responsibility. The Network Presbytery will refrain from haste and act with deliberation in recommending ministerial recognition. Many individuals in our churches have an ability to preach but would find themselves out of harmony with the will of God should they attempt to require credentials.

Only the General Council Credential Committee, upon recommendation of the Network Presbytery acting as the Network Credential Committee, grants credentials. Credentials are granted based on a person's involvement in ministry (not what an applicant plans to do, but ministry in which they are already involved), as well as on his/her qualifications and the evidence of a Divine call. After reading this information about the credential process, candidates may feel they qualify for a certain credential. However, the applicant should be aware that the Network Presbytery is not obligated to recommend a credential or an upgrade of a credential simply because an applicant has satisfied the educational requirements and completed the application process.

3. Proper Motives

A candidate should be certain that his/her motives are pure when applying for ministerial recognition. He/she should not suppose that a ministerial credential would automatically open our assemblies to preaching and ministry opportunities. A ministry anointed by the Holy Spirit will prove to be the best credential and will provide opportunities for service.

4. Integrity

It is expected that those applying for credentials possess a good reputation among those outside as well as inside the church in matters of financial integrity, honesty and morals which are above reproach (Titus 1:7, 1 Timothy 3:7).

5. Unity and Cooperation

The Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered by its members. All members holding credentials shall be amenable to both The Rocky Mountain Ministry Network and the General Council in matters of doctrine and conduct. They shall agree to be governed by the Network and General Council Constitution and Bylaws and policies.

Each applicant for credentials should possess a conviction that God is directing him/her to become part of the Assemblies of God Fellowship. He/she should purpose in his/her heart to be in harmony with the principles and practices of the fellowship and should in no way allow himself/herself to come into conflict with or be a divisive force against the churches and ministers of the Fellowship. (AG Bylaws, Art. II)

6. Upgrade of Credentials

The Network Credentials Committee is not obligated to recommend an upgrade to a Ministry License or Ordination until fitness and ministerial activity justifies the action. Neither shall a Licensed Minister be Ordained solely upon the basis of having completed the process and having held a Ministry License for two full consecutive years. Ordination is recommended at such a time as the candidate has met all the General and Network Councils' requirements for Ordination and has demonstrated a mature ministry. The Network Credentials Committee will determine if the maturity of the applicant and his/her ministry are sufficient to warrant recommendation.

7. Ministers from Other Organizations

All applicants, who have been licensed or ordained by other reputable (as recognized by the General Council) church bodies, who desire affiliation with the Assemblies of God will be expected to demonstrate to the Network Credentials Committee that their past record is above reproach. Also, they should meet the requirements and qualifications outlined in this booklet. (AG Bylaws, Art. VII, Section 2, paragraph m)

The Network Credentials Committee shall not accept mail-order ministerial licenses and ordination certificates as well as credentials from questionable groups. Individuals holding such credentials must qualify for Assemblies of God recognition by meeting the qualifications and requirements outlined in this booklet.

8. Transfers from the World Assemblies of God Fellowship

The General Council Bylaws make provision for a minister holding ordination with a member group of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF) to transfer that ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Credential Application Procedure

Please refer to the enclosed insert for specific dates regarding each credential level process.

Step 1

An applicant (first time and upgrade) must apprise his/her pastor of the desire to be credentialed or to upgrade their credential with The Rocky Mountain Ministry Network. In order to obtain the Official Application packet, the applicant must submit a request through www.rmdc.org home page, under “**Credentials**”.

Once we receive your request, we will email you the Credentialing Packet, which includes the following:

1. Letter of instructions
2. Official Application Form
3. Information Authorization/Release Forms (for you and your spouse, if applicable – MUST be notarized)
4. Background Check Disclosures
5. Reference Forms
6. Exam Study Guides

Step 2

Upon receiving the Official Application Packet, the applicant is to complete and remit the following:

1. Official Application – Must be typed using the writable PDF. Please print completed PDF then sign (No Electronic Signature permitted)
2. \$150.00 Application Fee – This is a one-time, nonrefundable fee (Make check payable to RMMN).
3. Information Authorization/Release Form(s) – Must be completed by applicant (and spouse, if applicable) **and** notarized by a notary public.
4. Background Check Disclosure – Must be completed by the applicant.
5. Social Security Card – Applicant must submit a copy of their Social Security Card to verify their identity.
6. Transcript(s) – Must show successful completion of all required coursework needed to satisfy the education requirements for desired level.
7. Reference Forms – It is the responsibility of the applicant to see that all reference forms are delivered/mailed/emailed to their references. Then, the references are to complete and return the forms to the Network Office in the envelope the applicant provides or emailed to maragon@rmdc.org

Mail all the above-mentioned items to:

RMMN
Attn: Secretary-Treasurer
6295 Lehman Dr. Ste 202
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Step 3

Upon receipt of the completed Official Application Packet (Step 2), it will be reviewed by the RMMN Secretary's Office. The completed packet must be received on or before November 30th for Ordination, Certified and Licensed credentials may be applied for at any time during the year.

Step 4

All applicants must complete a series of written exams, depending on what level the applicant is applying for. The General Council requires all exams to be proctored by a minister of the same level or above. See pages 8-9 for more information regarding exams.

Step 5

Once an applicant for Certificate of Ministry or Ministry License has completed the required exams, they will be contacted by their presbyter to set up an interview date, time and location.

Step 6

Completed Credential Applications are presented to the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network Presbytery at their regularly scheduled meetings once the file is complete. The Network Presbytery recommendation and the application file will be forwarded to the office of the General Secretary for final approval.

Applicants will not receive any additional correspondence from the RMMN Secretary's office concerning their credential application until notification is received from the General Secretary's office. All credentials are sent to Network Secretary's Office. Secretary/Treasurer will contact the pastor of the applicant to make provision of public recognition of receiving credential.

Ministry Described (AG Bylaws Art. VII, Section 1)

Christ's gifts to the church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers (Romans 12:7,8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to sex, race, disability or national origin. In terms of maturity of ministry, three classifications of credentials are recognized: Certificate of Ministry, Ministry License, Ordination.

All ministers currently holding ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

Basic Qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition (AG Bylaws Art. VII, Section 2, paragraph a-m)

- a. **Salvation** – Testimony as to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
- b. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** – Testimony as to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues, according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable the applicant to fulfill the threefold mission of the church (Article V, paragraph 10 of the General Council Constitution).
- c. **Evidence of Call** – Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- d. **Christian Character** – A blameless Christian life, reflected by a good reputation with believers and non-believers. (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).
- e. **Doctrinal Position** – A thorough understanding of an agreement with the doctrinal position of the Assemblies of God as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- f. **Assemblies of God Polity** – A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and District Council constitution and bylaws.
- g. **Commitment to the Fellowship** – An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older brethren and those in positions of authority.
- h. **Basic Education Requirements** – Please refer to page 6 & 7 of this booklet regarding this topic.
- i. **Marriage Status** – We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1Corinthians 7:10-15), or domestic violence, except as hereinafter provided.
- j. **Ecclesiastical Annulments and Marriage Dissolutions** – The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases, involving pre-conversion divorce, they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

- k. **Eligibility of Women** – The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or district and General Council leadership.
- l. **Minsters From Other Organizations** – If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees of both the General Council and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:
1. Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
 2. Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
 3. Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the sectional presbyter from the applicant's area.
 4. Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
 5. Take the required credential examinations.
 6. Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for a minister transferring from other credentialing bodies. Courses currently required are: AG History, Mission and Governance and Spirit Empowered Church.
 7. Meet with the network's credential committee for an oral interview.
 8. Be recommended by the network credential committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
 9. All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the network presbytery. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.
 10. Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of a network council credentials committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who holds a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, or in special and/or unique cases as determined by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- m. **Residency Requirements** – An applicant for ministerial credentials must have been a resident of the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network as follows:
1. Certified & License – No minimum requirement
 2. Ordained – One year **before** credential would be granted.

Education Requirements

General Guidelines

Listed below are the general educational requirements for credentialing. Transcripts are evaluated when applicants apply.

1. Attend an endorsed Assemblies of God college/university as defined by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, as a biblical studies major, ministerial studies major, or other church-related major.
 - a. Certificate of Ministry– successfully complete 2 full years of A/G college course work as a Biblical Studies or Ministerial Studies major with sufficient ministry involvement.
 - b. Ministry License - successfully complete 3 full years of A/G college course work as a Biblical Studies or Ministerial Studies major with sufficient ministry involvement.
 - c. Ordination - successfully complete 4 full years (Graduation) of A/G college course work as a Biblical Studies or Ministerial Studies major with sufficient ministry involvement.
 - If the course of study at one of our endorsed AG colleges or universities is not considered one of the approved areas of study, then the student should have at least 24 credit hours in Bible and theology.

2. Successfully complete the Global/Berean University correspondence courses prescribed by the General Council Presbytery for the level of credential being sought. For the requirements under this option, see the section on Global/Berean Correspondence Requirements.
3. Successfully complete the Assemblies of God District School of Ministry courses prescribed by the General Council Presbytery for the level of credential being sought. For the requirements under this option, see the section on District School of Ministry requirements.
4. Attend a recognized Bible College/University other than Assemblies of God. Under this option, the transcript must reflect successful completion of courses equivalent to current General Council Presbytery requirements. In addition to sufficient courses on the transcript, the candidate will be required to take *A/G History, Missions and Governance and Spirit Empowered Church*.

(Note: a grade of 'C' or better is required on all courses to be applied toward education requirements)

Global/Berean Correspondence Requirements

Certificate of Ministry	Ministry License	Ordination
BIB114 Christ in the Synoptic Gospels	BIB212 New Testament Survey	BIB313 Corinthian Correspondence
BIB115 Acts	BIB214 Old Testament Survey	BIB318 Pentateuch
BIB117 Prison Epistles	BIB215 Romans	BIB322 Poetic Books
BIB121 Introduction to Hermeneutics	MIN223 Introduction to Homiletics	MIN325 Preaching in the Contemporary World
MIN123 The Local Church in Evangelism	MIN251 Effective Leadership	MIN327 Church Admin, Finance & Law
MIN171 Spirit Empowered Church	MIN261 Intro to A/G Missions	MIN381 Pastoral Ministry
MIN181 Relationships & Ethics in Ministry	MIN281 Conflict Management	MIN391 Advanced Ministerial Internship
MIN191 Beginning Ministerial Internship	MIN291 Intermediate Ministerial Internship	THE311 Prayer and Worship
THE114 Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine	THE211 Intro to Theology	
THE142 A/G History, Mission & Governance	THE245 Eschatology	

Rocky Mountain District School of Ministry

Certificate of Ministry	Ministry License	Ordination
101 Life of Christ	201 Intro to Theology	301 Pentateuch
102 Intro to Pentecostal Doctrine	202 New Testament Survey	302 Corinthians
103 Acts	203 Old Testament Survey	303 Poetic Books
104 Prison Epistles	204 Romans	304 Prayer and Worship
105 Intro to Hermeneutics	205 Intro to Homiletics	305 Preaching in Cultural Context
106 Evangelism	206 Eschatology	306 Church Admin, Law & Finance
107 A/G History, Missions & Governance	207 Theology of Missions	307 Pastoral Ministry
108 Ministerial Ethics	208 Effective Leadership	308 Apologetics
109 Spirit Empowered Church	209 Conflict Management	309 Church Planting
120 Certified Internship	220 License Internship	320 Ordained Internship

For information on Global/Berean University or to receive a catalog with pricing and registration materials, call Berean University at 1-800-443-1083. Please note: Regardless of where you receive your education, you must complete the Berean or DSOM courses *A/G History, Missions & Governance and Spirit Empowered Church*, before you will be allowed to continue the credential process.

For information on Rocky Mountain District School of Ministry please visit our website at RMDSOM.org or call the Network office at 719-522-0195.

Specific Qualifications per Credential Classification

Certificate of Ministry

Education Requirements

See page 6-7. All required courses must be completed before making application.

General Requirements

They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the network credentials committees, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.

Exams

Certificate of Ministry requires the Bible Knowledge and Doctrine exams. The General Council requires the exams to be proctored by an ordained minister.

Pastoral Requirements

In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he/she shall be expected to advance to the ministry license level within two years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exception shall be at the discretion of the network credentials committee. (AG Bylaws Art. VII, Section 3, paragraph c, 2)

Exception for Provisional Issuance (AG Bylaws Art. VII, Section 3, paragraph c, 3)

A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the network credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry. The reason for such provisional issuance must be ministry driven and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless the minister accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:

- a. The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for one year and shall not be renewed more than two times.
- b. A person who has been granted the Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the qualifications for a minister certificate within a 3-year period.

Timeline

No deadline.

Ministry License

Education Requirements

See page 6-7. The applicant must complete all required courses before making application.

General Requirements

Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a Divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel. (AG Bylaws Article VII, Section 3, paragraph d)

Exams

If an applicant holds a Certificate of Ministry credential and is upgrading to Ministry License, then the Polity exam is required. If an applicant's first credential is Ministry License then the Bible Knowledge, Doctrine and Polity exams are required.

Timeline

No Deadline.

Ordination

Education Requirements

See page 6-7. All required courses must be completed before making application.

Qualifications for Ordination (AG Bylaws Article VII, Section 3, paragraph e)

1. Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.
2. They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribing application form.
3. No person may be ordained to the ministry until he/she has shown evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
4. Residency requirements of applicants. Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the network where they make application and appear before its credentials committee. Network councils are required to refrain from recommending any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another network, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the district/network in which he/she is seeking ordination at least one year. Applicants who have not been a member of the network where they apply for ordination for two full consecutive years must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officers of the network in which they were previously licensed, as well as the network of their residence.
5. Exceptions to requirements. The General Council Credentials Committee, upon recommendation by a network credentials committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a ministry license for two full consecutive years or being a member of the network in which he/she is seeking ordination for at least one year.
6. In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary.

Timeline

Due November 30th.

Ordination Transfers

The General Council Bylaws make provision for recognizing a previous ordination of a minister coming from other reputable organizations, recognized by the General Council. (A minister who has a previous ordination from a local church is **not** eligible for recognition).

The district/network is under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status but should judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credential to be recommended.

Transfers from the World Assemblies of God Fellowship

The General Council Bylaws make provision for a minister holding ordination with a member group of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF) to transfer that ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Additional Credential Information

Each credentialed minister is required to pay both General Council dues and RMMN tithe/dues.

For your convenience, the RMMN receives online giving – www.rmdc.org “Giving”

GENERAL COUNCIL DUES:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Certificate of Ministry | \$10 per month or \$120 year |
| ▪ Ministry License | \$20 per month or \$240 year |
| ▪ Ordained | \$25 per month or \$300 year |
| ▪ Senior Retired | \$0 |
| ▪ Disabled | \$0 |

RMMN TITHE/DUES:

MINISTRY INCOME DUES:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| ▪ Tithe from all ministerial income | |
| ▪ Senior Retired | \$0 |
| ▪ Disabled | \$0 |

General Council dues **may be** deducted from Ministry Income tithe/dues; meaning, your GC dues plus your RMMN tithe/dues should equate to 10% (a tithe) of all ministry income.

SECULAR EMPLOYMENT DUES:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Certificate of Ministry | \$30 per month or \$360 year |
| ▪ Ministry License | \$45 per month or \$540 year |
| ▪ Ordained | \$60 per month or \$720 year |

General Council dues **cannot** be deducted from Secular Employment dues.

If secular employment is less than 20 hours and there is no ministry income, then the “No Employment” dues listed below applies.

BI-VOCATIONAL EMPLOYMENT DUES:

(Income coming from both ministry and secular employment)

- 20 + hours of secular employment use “Secular Employment” guidelines (above)
- Less than 20 hours of secular employment pay tithe on Ministry Income (above)

NO EMPLOYMENT DUES:

Same rates as GC Dues listed above are required for RMMN tithe/dues.

MISSIONARIES DUES:

World Missionaries	\$25 per month or \$300 year (Resident in the U.S.)
	\$10 per month or \$120 year (Resident on field)
U.S. Missionaries	50% of tithe
Honorary U.S. Missionaries	25% of tithe
Chaplain	10% of tithe
Chi Alpha	50% of tithe