



Ordination Guide

Then He said to His disciples,
"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send
out workers into His harvest." (Mat 9:37-38)

Has the Holy Spirit called you into ministry?



**Pastor, Ministry
Leader, or Teaching**



**Pastoral Counseling,
Care, & Discipleship**



**Bible Study or
Small Group Ministry**



**Chaplaincy or other
Specialized Ministry**

**Ministry is a divine call from the Lord to serve Him and help others.
Experience Ministries is called to equip, credential, and support ministers.**

Thank you for requesting Experience Ministries ordination guide. This guide will explain our clergy credentialing program and requirements which leads to commissioning or ordination as a minister of Jesus Christ.

Experience Ministries credentialing process focuses on identifying God's calling on your life, equipping you to minister to others, and supporting you during and after clergy credentialing.

Experience Ministries believes in strong relationships. When we accept your application for clergy credentials it is with the expectation of a long healthy partnership in which we advance the Kingdom of God together. The Body of Christ should co-labor and support each as instructed in Ephesians 4:11-16.

Your Clergy Credentials authorizes you to

- **Pastor, preach, and teach**
- **Provide pastoral counseling and care**
- **Lead groups**
- **Serve as a chaplain or missionary**
- **Serve the sacraments**
- **Perform weddings, funerals, dedications, and other sacred rites**

When you complete the credentialing process and receive commissioning or ordination you become part of our ministerial family and enter ongoing accountability and support process which includes quarterly reports and an annual renewal.

Optional opportunities for Experience Ministries family members include,

- Online courses
- Live online training and groups
- The weekly encouragement group
- Retreats and gatherings
- Prayer support
- Ministry mentoring

May the Holy Spirit fill you with His wisdom and direction as you consider Experience Ministries for your clergy credentialing. We would love to chat and answer any questions you have about the credentialing process.

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Clergy Credentialing

Experience Ministries issues commissioning and ordination to people who are called and qualified for Christian ministry. The Body of Christ has been recognizing and endorsing (setting apart) ministers from the beginning.

“And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.” Acts 13:2-3

Ordination and commissioning are man’s method of recognizing what God has already completed or is currently doing in your life. In essence, clergy credentialing is the recognition by Christian leadership of your gifting and calling by God into ministry.

Clergy credentialing is vitally important in our culture. The church, as well as secular organizations, desire to know that a minister has training, support, and accountability. Many denominations and churches require ministers to obtain a degree before they will consider clergy credentialing. Unfortunately, not all people called to ministry can spend 4, 6, or 8 years in Bible College or Seminary. Even those who do must still obtain clergy credentialing after they finish their degree.

Experience Ministries encourages academic study, but does not require a specific degree level before credentialing. We focus on God’s calling as well as practical training.

Ministers who interact with secular organizations such as jails, prisons, and hospitals have a great need for clergy credentialing. The jail or prison must verify that the spiritual leaders coming and going from the secured facility are in fact ministers. Most jails and prisons will not allow a minister into the facility unless they can show proper clergy identification.

Ministers who provide pastoral counseling also have a more significant burden to prove their credentials are valid and that there is a reporting and renewal requirement. Every state in the U.S. has laws regulating who can provide counseling services. With very few exceptions anyone who provides counseling must submit to the training and licensing requirements for state licensure. **However, states do generally provide an exemption for ministers who are properly credentialed and offer counseling as part of their overall ministerial duties.** If you provide pastoral counseling, you must make sure you know and follow your state laws.



There is also a need inside the church. Believers and churches want to know that pastors, ministers, and para-church leaders have been through training for their clergy credentials. They also like to know that ministers have an accountability and support system.

When you obtain clergy credentials through Experience Ministries, you can show you have been through a screening and training process. You can also show there is regular reporting, annual renewal requirements, and an ongoing support system available to you as minister.

Experience Ministries credentialing does not mean the minister is an employee or that their ministry is sponsored. Our clergy credentials endorse the minister as a member of the clergy, give training, fellowship and support opportunities. This allows the minister the freedom necessary to work with other churches, ministries, denominations, or to establish their own ministries.

Clergy Credentialing Requirements

We take clergy credentialing and leadership seriously and believe each minister should do the same.

The following requirements are in place to ensure the minister should be in Christian leadership and are essential for clergy credentialing through Experience Ministries:

- Complete the application which includes references, theological questions, personal testimony, and ministry experience.
- Candidates must have a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- Candidates must show evidence of God’s calling into ministry and show a clear commitment to ministry.
- Agree with Experience Ministries Statement of Faith.
- Agree with Experience Ministries Code of Ethical Standards.
- After the initial application review candidates must complete a background check.
- Candidates must complete our credentialing process.
- Support Experience Ministries through prayer and monthly dues.
- Complete quarterly reports, annual renewals, and participate in ongoing training.

**“Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.”
James 3:1**

Clergy credentialing process

There are 3 phases to our credentialing process. Each phase focuses on a specific aspect of credentialing and takes advantage of technology to create the best possible training program. You must have a dependable computer or portable device to access the internet, an email account, and a commitment to interact with your mentor.

Phase 1 – Application and Background

If you would like to begin the application process, follow these simple steps.

- Send us an email requesting the application. We will send it along with our Code of Ethics and Statement of Faith.
- We will schedule a phone or video interview to get to know you and hear what Jesus is calling you to.
- Submit the application and requested information, without payment. We will do an initial review to make sure you meet the requirements for our program. If you are accepted, we will request an initial payment and give instructions to begin a background check. When the background check is complete,

Our credentialing process is flexible and partially self-paced. It normally takes 3-6 months to complete, but we allow a full year from the time of application. If you take more than one year you must reapply.

we do a final review and ask to clarify or give additional information. If you are fully accepted, you will be given specific instructions for phase 2 of the training process. If you are not accepted, we notify you and return any fees that have been paid.

- Once you have been fully accepted, we send out reference request letters and ask for any additional information we may need.

Phase 2 – Examination and Equipping

During this phase you are asked to join our live webcasts, when possible, watch a minimum of 6 training videos and complete the review form for each. You are also asked to complete a profile, your first quarterly report, and begin working with your mentor.

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Phase 3 – Course and Internship

The clergy credentialing course “Intentional Discipleship” contains 22 lessons that cover a wide range of personal and ministry topics. It includes weekly reading material, quizzes, videos, special assignments and interaction with a mentor.

This phase also contains the internship requirement. The internship is a vital component of our training system. Many candidates develop long term ministry connections and some internships transition into long term ministries.

To complete the internship, you must serve under another minister for a total of 30 hours. The ministry must be hands-on. Your current ministry activities may qualify. **You must request approval for your internship before starting to make sure it qualifies.** We do not accept pastoral counseling, administrative or secretarial activities for the internship.

An extensive list of options for the internship is available after you have been accepted into the program.

Credentialing

Throughout the credentialing process you will be given updates on your progress. When all the requirements are fulfilled, and assuming all is in order, you will be awarded a certificate for display and a wallet card to show clergy credentials.

We issue the following two categories of clergy credentials

Commissioned Minister – This clergy credential is awarded to new ministers who have never been credentialed or who are new to Experience Ministries. A minister can choose to stay commissioned or work toward ordination. Commissioning is great for newly credentialed ministers, those serving part time, or who have limited training and experience in ministry. Commissioning is full clergy credentialing and does not restrict a minister’s activities.

Ordained Minister – This is the highest recognition and honor a minister can receive through clergy credentialing. Ordained ministers have proven leadership abilities and experience. They typically have more responsibilities and training than commissioned ministers.

Experience has shown us that people inside and outside the church respect and have more confidence in ministers who go through a credentialing process with different levels. Ministers who receive a letter from another minister, online certificate, or even a local endorsement without training and an accountability process are not as well received, and in some cases not considered valid.

Lateral Transfers

Experience Ministries uses a lateral transfer process for ministers desiring to transfer their current clergy credentials. Clergy credentials must be valid, from a credentialing organization we accept, and the minister must be in good standing. Please contact us for specific information about the lateral transfer option.

Upgrades

Moving from commissioned to ordained requires a little more time and training. Ministers desiring to upgrade will need to complete the following:

- One additional course offered by Experience Ministries or 3 additional training videos with verification forms or attend a minister’s retreat.
- We prefer that a commissioned minister maintains this status for the first year but will work with special requests.
- Be current on quarterly reports, dues, and renewal requests.
- Display adequate ministry experience, responsibilities, and spiritual maturity.
- Upgrades are normally done during the annual renewal process. *

**Upgrades are not automatic. There is a final review that includes a review of quarterly reports, renewals, and prayer. We believe the Holy Spirit has the last word in the upgrade process.*

Credentialing Fees

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| • Application | \$ 85 |
| • Background Search | \$ 80 |
| • Examination and Equipping | \$155 |
| • Course, Mentor Fee and Internship | \$130 |
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Total Cost for Initial Credentialing	\$450
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Please submit your application without payment. If we do not accept your application during the initial review, you will be notified. If you are accepted in the initial review, the application and background fees are non-refundable.

Dues and Renewal Fees for Credentialed Ministers

Experience Ministries functions as a ministerial fellowship and is supported by the ministers we credential. Many denominations, churches, and fellowships who provide clergy credentialing require the minister's personal tithe and some request a tithe from the church or ministry.

Experience Ministries charges a small monthly fee rather than requesting the minister's personal tithe. The monthly fee allows us to provide live training, groups, and offer training videos, and personal support when minister's call or email. They also help us provide outreach to the lost and discipleship opportunities.

Many minister's consider the monthly fees as part of their tithe and include an extra amount to help support Experience Ministries. This is a huge blessing and helps us continue to reach the lost and support ministers.

- Monthly Credential Dues \$ 30
- Annual renewal for commissioned ministers \$105
- Annual renewal for ordained ministers \$115

Application Forms

To request your application and schedule the interview, email us at Support@ExperienceOrdination.org.

We look forward to hearing what the Holy Spirit is calling you to.