

## BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

**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).

**b. 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; I Timothy 3:7).

**e. Doctrinal Position**

A thorough understanding of, and 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 reference basic education requirements.

**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 (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), 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 2:29; 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.

- I. Ministers 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 Council 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 for 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 credential examination.
- (6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- (7) Meet with the District Credential Committee for an oral interview.
- (8) Be recommended by the District 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 district 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 the District Council Credential 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 Mississippi District as follows:

- 1) Certified & Licensed – No minimum requirement
- 2) Ordained - One year **before** credential would be granted