



Church of God

Ministerial Licensure Application

**NEW MINISTER, CALLING AND MINISTRY
STUDIES (CAMS), EXHORTER,
MINISTER OF MUSIC, AND
MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

NAME OF APPLICANT:

STATE/REGION:

CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL OFFICES
Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A.

August 2020



Church of God

NEW MINISTER, CAMS, EXHORTER, MINISTER OF MUSIC, AND MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION APPLICATION FORM

Instructions: *This form is the first part of the application process for licensure in the Church of God, and will become a part of each applicant's file. The applicant should complete Part I of this form and present it to the pastor with two letters of recommendation. The pastor should complete Part II, sign the application in the appropriate locations, and forward the form and the two recommendation letters to the district overseer. The district overseer should sign the form and forward the form and the two recommendation letters to the administrative bishop.*

In preparing to enter the ministry in the Church of God, read these Scriptures, which are important in preparing for endorsement as an Exhorter: Matthew 10:16; Romans 15:1-6, 16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:31, 32; 5:1, 2; Philippians 1:27; 2:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15; 1 Timothy 3:1-16; 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:23-26; 3:10-17; Titus 1:5-9; 2:7-8; 3:9; Hebrews 13:5, 7, 9, 17; James 1:5; 3:13, 17; 1 Peter 5:1-10.

Please indicate which credential: Exhorter Minister of Christian Education Minister of Music

PART I: APPLICANT INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant's First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

Social Security No. _____ Nationality _____

Please indicate ethnicity: African Haitian
 African-American Hispanic or Latino
 American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut Jamaican
 Asian or Pacific Islander Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 Caucasian Other _____
 East Indian or West Indian

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Male Female

Place of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____ U.S.A. Citizen? Yes No

If married, name of spouse _____

If you have children, list the name, age, and gender of all of your children: _____

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

APPLICANT

- Age at conversion _____
- Date of conversion _____
- Age when sanctified _____
- Have you received the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues? Yes No
- Age when baptized with the Holy Spirit _____
- Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Yes No
- Date of water baptism ____/____/____
- Have you backslidden since your initial water baptism? Yes No
- If yes, have you subsequently been baptized? Yes No If yes, give date ____/____/____
- Do you have regular family devotions? Yes No

SPOUSE

- Age at conversion _____
- Date of conversion _____
- Age when sanctified _____
- Has the applicant's spouse received the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues? Yes No
- Age when baptized with the Holy Spirit _____
- Has the applicant's spouse been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Yes No
- Date of water baptism ____/____/____
- Has the applicant's spouse backslidden since the initial water baptism? Yes No
- If yes, has the applicant's spouse subsequently been baptized? Yes No If yes, give date ____/____/____

CALL TO MINISTRY

APPLICANT

1. Age when you became aware of your call to ministry _____
2. Describe your call to ministry (use additional paper if necessary): _____

SPOUSE

Please describe how your spouse relates to your calling (select one):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concurs enthusiastically | <input type="checkbox"/> Unconvinced of your calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concurs, but unenthusiastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Resigned, but resentful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does not concur | <input type="checkbox"/> Opposed |

CHILDREN

Please describe how your child(ren) relate(s) to your calling (select one):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concurs enthusiastically | <input type="checkbox"/> Unconvinced of your calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concurs, but unenthusiastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Resigned, but resentful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does not concur | <input type="checkbox"/> Opposed |

MINISTRY-RELATED QUESTIONS

1. Are you a member of the Church of God? Yes No If yes, where? _____
Date united with the Church of God ____/____/____
2. Is your spouse a member of the Church of God? Yes No If yes, where? _____
If spouse is not a member of the Church of God, is he/she a Christian? Yes No
If yes, identify the church preference _____ Member? Yes No
3. Are you consistent in church attendance? Yes No
4. Are you consistent in tithing to the church tithing fund? Yes No
5. Are you consistent in giving offerings? Yes No
6. How many sermons have you preached? _____
7. Among the following activities, check the ones in which you are regularly involved:

<input type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Lay ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Prison ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Bible teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Music ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior adult ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Chaplaincy	<input type="checkbox"/> Outreach ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Other ministry _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship	<input type="checkbox"/> Preaching ministry	

Please describe any other ministerial involvement: _____

List the most significant ministerial experiences you have had in the past six months:

State briefly why you wish to become a minister in the Church of God: _____

8. List areas of the ministry in which you feel most effective. _____

9. Have you ever been certified by a local church as a lay minister? Yes No
If yes, where? _____
10. Have you been licensed for ministry by another denomination? Yes No If yes, give name and address of
organization: _____

11. Do you presently hold license with that group? Yes No
If no, how was license terminated? Voluntarily surrendered Revoked
Please explain the reason for surrender or revocation: _____

12. Give the name and address of the official to whom you were responsible:
 Name: _____ Title: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
13. Have you been licensed previously by the Church of God? Yes No
 If yes, how was license terminated? Voluntarily surrendered Revoked
 Please explain the reason for surrender or revocation: _____

14. Have you read the entire Bible? Yes No How many times? _____
(Reading the entire Bible before submitting the New Minister, CAMS, and Exhorter application is a requirement.)
 Are you presently engaged in a systematic program of Bible study? Yes No
 If yes, please describe: _____

15. As a part of this application process, obtain two letters of recommendation (one from your most recent pastor and one from an employer). Have these been obtained and included with this application request form? Yes No
[This application cannot be processed without these two letters of recommendation.]

MARITAL HISTORY

INFORMATION CONCERNING APPLICANT'S MARITAL STATUS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single, never married | <input type="checkbox"/> Married with no prior marriage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single, divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Married but separated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single, widow or widower | <input type="checkbox"/> Married with prior marriage |

If you are married, answer these questions concerning your spouse:
 Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
 Date you were married _____ Has your spouse been previously married? Yes No
 If married, describe your marriage relationship in terms of its stability, closeness, communication, togetherness, satisfaction, etc: _____

INFORMATION CONCERNING APPLICANT'S PRIOR MARRIAGE(S), IF ANY:

How many prior marriages? _____ How was (were) the marriage(s) terminated?
 1st Marriage: Death of Spouse Divorce Annulment
 2nd Marriage: Death of Spouse Divorce Annulment
 Additional marriage history: _____

INFORMATION CONCERNING SPOUSE'S PRIOR MARRIAGE(S), IF ANY:

How many prior marriages? _____ How was (were) the marriage(s) terminated?
 1st Marriage: Death of Spouse Divorce Annulment
 2nd Marriage: Death of Spouse Divorce Annulment
 Additional marriage history: _____

POLICY STATEMENTS ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE
Ruling as of August 2002

No applicant whose former spouse is living, or whose spouse's former spouse is living, shall be considered eligible for ministerial credentials except in cases where the divorce occurred because of the infidelity of the former spouse (Matthew 19:9), or the divorce occurred prior to initial conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or due to abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:15). **Conversion is interpreted as that point in time when one makes a public commitment to Christ, followed by a consistent Christian lifestyle.** In no case shall this provision apply to one who once walked with Christ, but who later divorced and/or remarried while living in a backslidden condition.

Whenever the applicant and/or spouse has a prior marriage, the applicant is asked to complete a set of forms concerning divorce and remarriage for each prior marriage. The applicant and spouse will be interviewed by the administrative bishop at a time and location set by the administrative bishop. With the recommendation of the administrative bishop and State Council, the marital forms are to be submitted to the International Executive Committee for consideration. When an applicant has been approved by the International Executive Committee, and has been given clearance from a national criminal background check, the applicant may be given the materials to begin the licensing process.

LIFE HISTORY QUESTIONS

1. **Educational Background:** (List location and degree received.)

- Certificate In Ministerial Studies (CIMS) Certificate _____
- GED Diploma _____
- High School Diploma _____
- Hispanic Bible Institute Certificate _____
- Other Institute Certificate _____
- Technical School Certificate _____
- Associate Degree _____
- Lee University Undergraduate Degree _____
- Patten University Undergraduate Degree _____
- Other Undergraduate Degree _____
- Pentecostal Theological Seminary Graduate Degree _____
- Lee University Graduate Degree _____
- Other Graduate Degree _____
- I have not yet received a college degree, but I have completed _____ hours of college work.

2. **Employment:** Start with current or most recent employer. Give an accurate and complete full-time and part-time employment record.

Current or most recent employer [Attach additional page(s) for previous employer(s)]

Company Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____
Supervisor _____ Dates Employed _____
Job Title(s) _____

I am no longer employed there because: I was laid off. I quit. I was terminated by the company.
 I quit because I was going to be terminated by the company.

3. Have you ever initiated a lawsuit or been a defendant in a lawsuit? Yes No

If the answer is yes, please provide the following information for each such lawsuit:

Were you the plaintiff or defendant? _____
In what court was the lawsuit brought? _____
What were the claims brought? _____
What did you do to try to resolve the situation without a lawsuit? _____

Please describe the outcome of the lawsuit. _____

4. Have you ever served in the military, National Guard, or the reserves? Yes No

If yes, did you receive an honorable discharge? Yes No If no, please explain: _____

5. Have you ever declared bankruptcy? Yes No If yes, please explain: _____
6. Do you have any ongoing problems with personal/family financial management, including credit card foreclosures, problems with debt collectors? Yes No If yes, please explain: _____

NATIONAL CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK QUESTIONS

(If approved by the administrative bishop to continue with the credentialing process, these questions will be asked again by the Oxford Document Management Company.)

Please check either "yes" or "no" for each question. If the answer to any of the following questions is "yes," please indicate the question number, provide relevant information regarding your response, and indicate resolution of the issues, if any. Use additional paper if necessary.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Has disciplinary action of any sort ever been taken against you by a licensing board, professional association, or educational/training institution? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Have there been written complaints against you that did <u>not</u> result in discipline? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Are there any complaints pending against you before any of the above-named bodies? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 2. Have you ever been subjected to ecclesiastical disciplinary proceedings? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 3. Have you ever been asked to resign or been terminated by a training program or employer? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 4. Have you ever had a civil suit brought against you relative to your professional work, or is any such suit pending? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Have you ever had professional malpractice insurance suspended or revoked for any reason? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 5. Have you ever been charged ¹ with any ethics violation, or are any such actions pending against you? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 6. Have you ever been charged with having sexual contact or attempted sexual contact (sexual intercourse of any kind, intentional touching, or conversation for the purpose of sexual arousal) with individuals you were seeing in a professional context (e.g., a parishioner, a patient, an employee, a subordinate, a student)? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 7. Since the age of 21, have you ever been charged with engaging in sexual behavior (sexual intercourse of any kind, intentional touching, or conversation for the purpose of sexual arousal) with individuals under the age of 18 years of age? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 8. Have you ever been charged with the production, sale, or distribution of pornographic materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 9. Have you ever been charged or adjudicated with sexual misconduct, including the following: | | |
| Abuse of power or role for sexual purposes? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Sexual contact with a minor or an adult incompetent to give consent? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Sexual assault (e.g., rape)? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Solicitation for sexual purposes (e.g., prostitution)? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| An offense related to pornography or public indecency (e.g., indecent exposure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 10. Have you ever been charged with an offense related to sexual harassment, including the following: | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Unwelcome sexual advances? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Requests for sexual favors? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Sexually motivated physical contact? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Verbal or physical domination of a sexual nature? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 11. Do you have a history of alcohol abuse? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 12. Do you have a history of drug abuse with any other drugs: recreational, prescription, over-the-counter, or illicit? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 13. Have you ever been charged, arrested, or convicted for any crimes or misdemeanors? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Have you ever been charged with traffic violations? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Has your driver's license ever been revoked or suspended? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 14. Have you ever had a restraining order, injunction, order for protection, or the like issued against you as a result of allegations of domestic violence, abuse, or so forth? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Have you ever had your parental rights restricted, suspended or terminated, or have any of your children been put into foster care? | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

¹Throughout this document, "charged" indicates allegations made in writing and known to you.

15. Have you ever been charged with misappropriating funds or otherwise breaching fiduciary duties in any professional capacity? No Yes
 Have you ever been charged or convicted of writing "bad checks"? No Yes
 Have you ever been convicted criminally for income tax violations? No Yes
16. Is there anything regarding your personal and private life, such as immorality, pornography problems, or other problems, which you knowingly should divulge to those examining you for ministry? No Yes

PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

In applying for ministerial credentials with the Church of God, I affirm my personal belief in the doctrine contained in the Declaration of Faith and elsewhere in the current Church of God Book of Discipline, Church Order, and Governance of the *Minutes* of the International General Assembly of the Church of God. I believe that the Practical Commitments of the Church of God are biblical exhortations for the life of holiness. I affirm my personal belief in, and practice of, the tithing system as recommended by the International General Assembly. I have prayerfully considered the above questions and statements, and I have answered them honestly and conscientiously to the best of my understanding and ability. I hereby pledge allegiance to the Church of God and dedicate my ministry to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

PERSONAL CONSENT AND PERMISSION FORM FOR BACKGROUND CHECK

Your response to the above questions in this application will be helpful to your pastor in completing Part II of this form. It will also assist the administrative bishop and State Ministerial Examining Board to better evaluate you for licensure. By signing below, you are granting permission for this application to be released by the administrative bishop to those he deems necessary in processing your licensure application.

"I certify to the best of my knowledge and ability, the information provided in this New Minister, CAMS, Exhorter, Minister of Music, and Minister of Christian Education Application Form is true, correct, and complete. I authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application, including the conducting of a national criminal background check. I further authorize all references, supervisors, and organizations listed in this application to give to the Church of God any and all information concerning my previous employment and any other pertinent information, personal or otherwise, that they may have concerning my character or fitness to serve as a minister. I release any and all parties from any and all liability for any damage that may result from furnishing such information to the Church of God."

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

AUTHORIZATION FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

As administrative bishop of the Church of God in the state/region of _____, I do hereby authorize the Church of God Division of Education (DOE), Office of Ministerial Development, or an agency approved by the International Executive Committee, to initiate the national criminal background check as authorized by the *Minutes* (S21, IV, Item 6).

Signature _____ Date _____

Instructions: After the administrative bishop has reviewed and approved this application, a copy of this signed form is to be mailed to the COG Division of Education, Office of Ministerial Development, or an agency approved by the International Executive Committee, to initiate a national criminal background check as authorized by the International General Assembly *Minutes*. After the applicant has been given clearance from the background check, the applicant and spouse enroll in Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS).

PART II: PASTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This portion of the application must be completed by the applicant's local pastor.
If the applicant is currently pastoring a church, this form must be completed by the district overseer.

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITY

(It may be necessary for you to interview the applicant and his/her family prior to completing this recommendation.)

1. Do you feel that you know the applicant well enough to evaluate his/her eligibility for the exhorter credential?
 Yes No
2. Do you know of any reason why the applicant is not qualified for licensure in the Church of God? Yes No
If yes, please explain: _____

3. Are you aware of the marital history of the applicant? Yes No
[If you answered no, it is essential that you interview the applicant and gain this information before proceeding.]
4. In what ministerial position(s) within the local church is the applicant presently serving? _____

5. Has the applicant been baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues? Yes No
6. Please describe the applicant's participation in church ministries:
 Faithful Unenthusiastic Effective Participates, but ineffective
7. Please describe the applicant's knowledge of the Word of God: Excellent Above Average Below Average
8. List any area(s) of the ministry or personal conduct where you believe that the applicant's performance is unsatisfactory:

9. List any area(s) where the applicant excels in ministerial knowledge and skills: _____

10. In what area(s) of ministerial knowledge and skills does the applicant need the most improvement? _____

11. Please describe how often the applicant is involved in preaching activities:
 Frequent Infrequent Strong initiative in seeking opportunities Lacks initiative in seeking opportunities
12. How long have you known the applicant? _____ In what relationship? _____
13. How long has the applicant been a member of your local church? _____
14. Is the applicant faithful in tithing? Yes No In offerings? Yes No In attendance? Yes No
15. Is the applicant's spouse a member of your church? Yes No If no, please explain why not: _____

16. Is the applicant and spouse consistent in church attendance? Yes No If no, please explain: _____

17. Do you believe the applicant is called to a ministry that requires credentials? Yes No
Please explain: _____

18. Describe the applicant's present ministerial activities: _____

19. List any ministerial and/or personal strengths you see in the applicant: _____

20. List any ministerial and/or personal weaknesses you see in the applicant: _____

21. Describe the spouse's attitude toward the applicant's ministerial calling: _____

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

22. Does the applicant have a history of good interpersonal relationships in the local church ministry? Yes No
If no, please explain: _____

23. Does the applicant have a good record of personal and financial integrity in the church and community?
 Yes No Not Sure If no or not sure, please explain: _____
24. Does the applicant have the trust and respect of fellow Christians? Yes No
 If no, please explain: _____
25. Does the applicant demonstrate all of the following:
- | | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| accountability | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | positive attitude | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| commitment | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | sincere love for people | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| emotional stability | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | spiritual maturity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
- If no to any of the above, please explain: _____
26. If the applicant is married, how would you describe his/her marital situation? _____
27. Do you feel confident that the applicant can control his/her temper? Yes No Not Sure
 Do you feel confident that the applicant can handle high stress situations? Yes No Not Sure
 If no or not sure to either of the above, please explain: _____

Signature of Pastor _____

Name of Local Church _____

Date _____

Recommendation of Pastor

I recommend the applicant for the exhorter credential.

Yes Yes, with reservations No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation of District Overseer

I recommend the applicant for the exhorter credential.

Yes Yes, with reservations No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation of Administrative Bishop

I recommend the applicant for the exhorter credential.

Yes Yes, with reservations No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The recommendation of the State Ministerial Examining Board is made after the applicant completes Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS).

[To be completed by the State Ministerial Examining Board]

Recommendation of State Ministerial Examining Board

After reviewing the application form and interviewing the applicant and spouse, does the State Ministerial Examining Board recommend the applicant for licensure? Yes No

Give reasons:

Signature of Board Members:

Date Interviewed: _____

Chairman: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

**MAJOR STEPS IN THE
MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALING PROCESS**

1. Submit the New Minister, CAMS, Exhorter, Minister of Music, and Minister of Christian Education Application.
2. Complete the Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS) program.
3. Pass the Exhorter Exam.
4. Submit the Ordained Minister and Ministerial Internship Program (MIP) Application.
5. Complete the MIP.
6. Pass the Ordained Minister Exam.
7. Submit the Ordained Bishop Application.
8. Pass the Ordained Bishop Exam.

FOR STATE OFFICE USE ONLY

To: Presiding Bishop _____
(Name)

This is to certify that _____
(Name)

has been duly examined on the doctrine and government of the Church of God by the State Examining Board of _____ and is hereby recommended for the rank of exhorter.

Date of Examination _____ Grade _____
Administrative Bishop, please fill in all the above blanks.

Signatures of the Administrative Bishop and the State Ministerial Examining Board

Administrative Bishop

Ordained Bishop

Ordained Bishop

Ordained Bishop

FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY

Credential File Number: _____

RANK OF MINISTRY: Exhorter Minister of Christian Education Minister of Music
STATUS: New Reinstated

Name _____

Male Female Date of Birth _____ Nationality _____

Approved By _____
(Presiding Bishop)

Date Approved _____

Credentials issued, on: _____

Credentials delivered to: _____

Administrative Bishop of: _____ Date: _____

Remarks: _____
