

CREDENTIAL HANDBOOK

READ THIS BEFORE FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION



Minnesota District Council
Assemblies of God

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2022/2023 CREDENTIAL CALENDAR TIMETABLE AND INSTRUCTIONS

Visit our website at www.mnaog.org to download the Pre-Application and submit to ecorbett@mnaog.org. Once approved to apply, you will be supplied with a sign-on to access and upload forms.

APPLICATION DEADLINE - October 1, 2022 (For current NCU students, deadline is Nov. 1st)

The following items must be **in our office** on or before the above-mentioned date:

New Applicants

- Official Application with photo
- School Transcript(s)
- Authorization & Release Forms
- Photocopy of Social Security Card
- Background Check Disclosure Form
- Supplemental App & Spouse Info Form
- Waiver and Disclaimer Forms
- Proctor Form (if applicable)
- Fee: Certified Minister -- \$165
Licensed Minister -- \$165

Upgrade Applicants

- Upgrade Application with photo
- School Transcript(s)
- Authorization & Release Forms
- Photocopy of Social Security Card
- Background Check Disclosure Form
- Proctor Form (Upgrade to License only)
- Fee: Licensed Minister -- \$100
Ordained Minister -- \$165

FINAL DEADLINE - November 1, 2022

The following items must be **in our office** on or before the above-mentioned date:

New Applicants

Exams & References

Upgrade Applicant

Exam (no exam for Ordination) & References

Guidelines for taking the exam

The exam(s) are to be taken under the supervision of a designated, approved proctor. Once we receive the form in our office, the exam will be mailed to the proctor. Exams can also be taken on-line starting this year. Study guides are available in your Moodle Account. The exam(s) must be completed no later than November 1st and will also be offered at the District Office between 8am & 2pm on **Friday, October 28th and Monday, October 31st. NCU Students and Retake Exam Day will be Friday, November 18th.**

Seminar and Interview

Applicants who have been approved will be notified of the time of their interview appointment. **Spouses or fiancés are required to attend the seminar and interview.**

Certified and Licensed Applicants

Wednesday OR Thursday, February 8-9, 2023

(dates are subject to change)

All-day, One-day event with Interviews

In January, we will let you know which day you will attend

Ordained Applicants

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

(date is subject to change)

All-day event with Interviews

Credentialing Ceremony

The Credentialing Ceremony takes place during the Celebration Service of District Council (April 20-21) at **10:00 am Friday, April 21** at Cedar Valley Church in Bloomington. The rehearsal will begin promptly at 8:30 am.

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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

This handbook has been prepared to give helpful information to those who have a call to ministry and may be seeking ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God Fellowship through the Minnesota District Council.

All candidates should acquaint themselves with the teachings, practices, and purposes of the fellowship as revealed through the Constitution & Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The General Council Constitution & Bylaws can be found at this website: http://ag.org/top/About/constitution_bylaws.cfm.

All applications for ministerial credentials are to be made through the Minnesota District Council. See pages 4-6 for **Basic Qualifications**, pages 6-7 for **Specific Qualifications**, and pages 9-11 regarding **Making Application**.

Ministerial credentials are for those who show a genuine call of God to ministry which would take them beyond the confines of their own local church. **Ministerial credentials are not for lay people engaged in teaching, worship leading, or occasional exhortation in the local assembly.** It is the responsibility of the Credentials Committee to carefully screen all candidates to determine whether their ministry would be best served as lay ministry or if the candidate should be credentialed. If you are unsure if a credential is needed, contact the credentialing office.

16 FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

All candidates seeking credentials with the Assemblies of God must be in agreement with the 16 tenants of faith. These are non-negotiable. If a candidate finds they are in disagreement with any of the following fundamental truths, they should discuss their concerns with the District Secretary before actually making application. Applicants not agreeing with the 16 fundamental truths will not receive credentials.

WE BELIEVE:

1. **The Scriptures Inspired** 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21
2. **One True God** Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22
3. **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ** Matt 1:23, 28:6; Luke 1:31, 35; 24:39; Acts 1:9,11; 2:22; 2:33; 10:38; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22
4. **The Fall of Man** Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19
5. **The Salvation of Man** Luke 24:27; John 3:3; Romans 8:16; 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; 4:24; Titus 2:11-12; 3:5-7
6. **The Ordinances of the Church** Matt 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 11:26; 2 Peter 1:4
7. **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit** Mark 16:20; Luke 24:49; John 7:37-39; Acts 1:4, 8; 2:42-43; 4:8; 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Hebrews 12:28

8. **The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit** Acts 2:4; 1Corinthians 12:4-10, 28
9. **Sanctification** Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12, 12:14; 1Peter 1:5; 1:15-16
10. **The Church and Its Mission** Psalm 112:9; Matthew 25:37-40; 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8; 4:29-31; 1Corinthians 2:10-16; 12-14; Galatians 2:10, 5:22-26; 6:10; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:22; 4:11-16; Colossians 1:29; Hebrews 2:3-4; 12:23; James 1:27
11. **The Ministry** Psalm 112:9; Mark 16:15-20; John 4:23-24; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; Ephesians 4:11,16; James 1:27
12. **Divine Healing** Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16
13. **The Blessed Hope** Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1Thessalonians 4:16-17; Titus 2:13
14. **The Millennial Reign of Christ** Psalm 72:3-8; Isaiah 11:6-9; Ezekiel 37:21-22; Micah 4:3-4; Zephaniah 3:19-20; Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Romans 11:26-27; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6
15. **The Final Judgment** Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:0, 20:11-15; 21:8
16. **The New Heavens and the New Earth** 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21-22

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

A person seeking to be credentialed with the Assemblies of God **must have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues**. We believe this is not a one-time experience, but rather, this should be an ongoing experience and a regular part of a minister's devotional life. The candidate must believe and proclaim that the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues.

LEGAL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

It is a requirement that an applicant for credentials who is not a citizen of the United States of America have proof of a legal working status in the United States. Foreign students temporarily in the United States for educational purposes are not eligible for credentials. It will be necessary for the non-citizen applicant to provide either a copy of their green card or a lawful nonimmigrant temporary work visa before an application will be processed.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

It is highly suggested that an applicant for credentials should be a member of an Assemblies of God church. An exception to this requirement would be for a minister who is credentialed with another organization who wishes to be affiliated with the Assemblies of God or someone attending a Church Plant that does not offer membership.

ABSTINENCE STANDARD

The Assemblies of God believes that for the sake of adhering to the highest ministerial standards, a minister will abstain from alcohol, tobacco or other smoking, gambling, pornography, recreational or illegal drug usage or any sinful behaviors specifically prohibited by Scripture. Any person applying for credentials would need to agree to this standard.

ABSTINENCE FROM PORNOGRAPHY REQUIREMENT

An applicant for credentials needs to be free of any use of pornography for **at least 2 years prior** to applying for or **upgrading** credentials. Those struggling in this area should contact the District Secretary.

MAKING APPLICATION IF DIVORCED

If an applicant for credentials has been divorced and remarried and their former spouse is still living **OR** if their spouse has been divorced and has a former spouse still living, the divorce needs to be recognized by the General Council Executive Presbyters before an application for credentials could be processed. Please call the Credential Office to request an Application for Recognition of Divorce.

APPLICATION/FILING FEES (Nonrefundable*)

Certificate of Ministry License [initial application] Ordination	\$165*
License Upgrade	\$100*
Husband/Wife Discount**	-\$20
Fast Track [see pg 6]	\$75

*Nonrefundable if applicant withdraws, but partially refundable if withdrawal is at the District's request. District will retain \$50 minimum.

**Deduction for second applicant if both husband and wife are applying at the same time.

FAST TRACK PROGRAM

The General Presbyters approved a fast-track program for the following candidates:

1. **Lead pastors** who want to bring their **existing churches** into the Assemblies of God
2. Staff pastors of those same churches who **currently hold credentials** with other organizations
3. Groups of **existing ethnic ministers who wish to affiliate** with the General Council of the Assemblies of God

Requirements:

1. A completed *Official Application for Ministerial Credentials*
2. Letters of recommendation from Assemblies of God Ordained Ministers.
3. Study of the condensed manual on *Assemblies of God History, Missions & Governance, & Spirit Empowered Churches*
4. Background check
5. Signed Authorization / Release forms
6. Interview with District Executives or their designee
7. Ordained level ministers are to have the laying on of hands by the District Executives, perhaps at the set-in-order meeting of a church coming into the fellowship

In all cases, the candidates must be persons who are Pentecostal in experience, agree with the Statement of Fundamental Truths, and are willing to embrace 'voluntary cooperation' with the Assemblies of God in all of its implications.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION

(Quoted from the General Council and District Council Bylaws)

The following qualifications pertain to applicants for ministerial recognition:

- 1) **Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth [John 3:5]
- 2) **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Testimony 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 a minister to fulfill the fourfold mission of the church.
- 3) **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.
- 4) **Christian Character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without [Titus 1:7; I Timothy 3:7].
- 5) **Doctrinal Position.** A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

6) **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 Minnesota District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

7) **Voluntary cooperation and 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 mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, person of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant to be the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes.

Hence, for the minister, voluntary cooperation means that when the minister decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation thereby becomes obligatory and not optional.

9) **Basic Educational Requirements.** No specific level of formal academic achievement [diploma or degree] shall be a requirement for credentials; credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:

- 1) All applicants are required to be interviewed by the Minnesota District Credentials Committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee or permitted by General Presbytery policy; and either
- 2) Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated above, preferably in paragraph (3) below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God post-secondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the Minnesota District Credentials Committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or
- 3) Successfully complete courses prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Global University of the Assemblies of God, or pass the final examinations in the prescribed courses; or
- 4) Be recommended by the Minnesota District Credentials Committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from the Minnesota District for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

10) **Mandatory Screening.** All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the General Council Executive Presbytery. The screening shall be done prior to the submission of the application to the office of the General Secretary.

- 11) **Marriage Status.** The General Council disapproves 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 [I Corinthians 7:10-15], or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5-9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16-17; Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32; Ephesians 5), except as hereinafter provided.
- 12) **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 preconversion 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.
- 13) **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; I 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.
- 14) **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 Minnesota 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:
 - a) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
 - b) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
 - c) Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
 - d) 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 from the applicant's former credentialing body.
 - e) Take the credential examination.
 - f) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
 - g) Meet with the District Credentials Committee for an oral interview.
 - h) Be recommended by the District Credentials Committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
 - i) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with laying on of hands by the District Presbytery at the next

annual District Council. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.

- j) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of the Minnesota District Council Credentials Committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who hold a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, or in special and/or unique cases.

SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS

- 1) **Residency requirements of applicants.** Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the Minnesota District and appear before its credentials committee.
- 2) **Certified Minister** 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 Minnesota District Credentials Committee, 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.
- 3) **Licensed Minister** 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.
- 4) **Ordained Minister** Qualifications for Ordination are outlined in the New Testament [I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9]. In addition:
 - a) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.
 - b) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.
 - c) One must show evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
 - d) *Residency Requirements of Applicants.* Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the Minnesota District and appear before its Credentials Committee. The Minnesota District Council is required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the Minnesota District for at least 1 year. If the applicant has not been a member of the Minnesota District for 2 full consecutive years, he must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the Officiary of the district in which he was previously licensed, as well as the Minnesota District.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

For applicants who have attended an endorsed Assemblies of God college with a ministry major, (or at least 24 credit hours of Bible/Theo classes) credit will be given as follows for those who have completed:

◆ **2 yrs [48 hrs] Certificate of Ministry** ◆ **3 yrs [72 hrs] License** ◆ **4 yrs [96 hrs] Ordination**

For applicants who have not had formal Bible/ministry training, the General Council Presbytery has adopted the Ministerial Studies Diploma with courses as the minimum standard for credentials for applicants.

MNSOM – MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

MNSOM is a non-accredited Bible Training Institute located at various locations in the state. Courses taken through MNSOM will meet educational requirements for credentials with the General Council of the Assemblies of God; however, the courses may not qualify for credit at an accredited institution. There are at least 3 courses offered each month [at least one for Certified, one for License and one for Ordained]. Please see the District School of Ministry website for locations and course information: www.mnsom.org.

The **Relationships & Ethics in Ministry**, **Conflict Management for Church Leaders**, and **Pastoral Ministry** courses listed on the Berean list of courses will need to be substituted with the MNSOM courses: Ministerial Ethics, Conflict Resolution, and Pastoral Ministry. These courses may only be offered once a year, so check the MNSOM schedule and plan accordingly.

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY / BEREAN SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE

The Berean School of the Bible is a branch of Global University, Springfield, Missouri. The courses may be ordered directly from them by visiting their website at www.globaluniversity.edu. If it is preferable to take the courses at the college level to receive college credit, then enrollment should be made with Global University rather than Berean. A 20% discount is available for students taking courses with Global University in order to seek credentials. Please ask the Credentials Coordinator for more information regarding the discount.

NON-MINISTRY MAJOR - AG COLLEGE GRADUATE

An applicant who has attended an endorsed Assemblies of God college/university but did not have a ministry major, should request to have their transcript evaluated by the Credentials Coordinator to determine what supplemental coursework would need to be taken.

NON-AG BIBLE COLLEGE GRADUATE

Applicants who have attended a non-Assemblies of God Bible college should request that their transcript be evaluated. Applicants who attended a non-AG Bible college would be **required to take a minimum of two courses: *Assemblies of God History, Missions and Governance, Spirit Empowered Churches***; and other courses may also be required, such as ***Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine***.

The Class Comparison Chart on the next page shows the approved classes to be taken through MNSOM (Minnesota School of Ministry) and Berean School of the Bible (Global University).

NOTE: If you were Certified before 2021, class requirements for the Certified and Licensed levels have changed. Please reach out to the credential department for evaluation of your transcript.

Berean & MNSOM Class Options for Credentials

MNSOM Course	Berean Course
Certified (Level 1) Courses	
112 Life of Christ	BIB114 Christ in the Synoptic Gospels
121 Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine	THE114 Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine
122 AG History, Missions, & Governance	THE142 AG History, Missions, & Governance
134 Ministerial Ethics (District Required*)	
136 Hermeneutics I	BIB121 Introduction to Hermeneutics: How to Interpret the Bible
137 Hermeneutics II	
138 Spirit Empowered Churches	MIN171 A Spirit-Empowered Church: an Acts 2 Ministry Model
140 Systematic Theology (formerly 230)	THE211 Introduction to Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective
141 Old Testament Survey (formerly 211)	BIB214 Old Testament Survey
142 New Testament Survey (formerly 212)	BIB212 New Testament Survey
150 Certified Internship	MIN191 Beginning Ministerial Internship
Licensed (Level 2) Courses	
213 Romans	BIB215 Romans: Justification by Faith
223 Eschatology	THE245 Eschatology: A Study of Things to Come
231 Introduction to Homiletics	MIN223 Introduction to Homiletics
232 Leadership Skills	MIN251 Effective Leadership
233 Conflict Resolution (District Required*)	
234 Introduction to Missions	MIN261 Introduction to AG Missions
241 Local Church Evangelism (formerly 133)	MIN123 The Local Church in Evangelism
243 Acts (formerly 113)	BIB115 Acts: The Holy Spirit at Work in Believers
245 Prison Epistles (formerly 115)	BIB117 Prison Epistles: Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, & Philippians
250 Licensed Internship	MIN291 Intermediate Ministerial Internship
Ordained (Level 3) Courses	
311 Pentateuch	BIB318 Pentateuch
312 Psalms	BIB322 Poetic Books
314 Corinthians	BIB313 Corinthian Correspondence
322 Theology of Prayer	THE311 Prayer and Worship
324 Theology of Worship	
331 Multicultural Ministry	MIN325 Preaching in the Contemporary World
332 Pastoral Ministry (District Required*)	
334 Church Administration, Law, & Finance	MIN327 Church Administration, Finance, and Law
350 Ordained Internship	MIN391 Advanced Ministerial Internship
***District Required Courses must be taken through MNSOM	

MAKING APPLICATION

The cycle for completing the Credential Application paperwork is May thru October of each year. No applications will be accepted after October 1st of each year except for those applying under the Fast Track Program or current NCU Students.

Step #1

- Candidate must complete the **Pre-Application** found on the website at www.mnaog.org. **Please allow a minimum of one week for your Application to be reviewed. If you have transcripts, please email to ecorbett@mnaog.org.**

Step #2

- Once approved (or in May), candidates will receive an email with sign-in directions to a Moodle account. This will contain the Official Application and supporting documents. It also allows you to upload your documents into a secure location.
- Upon receipt of the *Official Application for Ministerial Credentials, Information Authorization & Release* form(s), *Background Check Disclosure*, and application/filing fee, a **background/credit check** will be run on the applicant. Credit issues may affect an applicant's eligibility for credentials.

Step #3

- **Take the exams:** All applicants must pass all exams with 70% or better.
 - The Exam is broken down into three parts: Bible Knowledge, Doctrine and Polity.
 - **Certified** will take Bible Knowledge and Doctrine.
 - **License** will take all three – Bible Knowledge, Doctrine and Policy.
 - **Upgrading to License** from Certified will only take Polity.
 - There is no exam for those **Upgrading to Ordination**.
 - **Ordination from another organization** will take all three
 - Comprehensive Study Guides are provided in Moodle.

Proctored Exam: The exam may be proctored by an Ordained minister. The Candidate and Ordained Minister will complete the *Proctor Agreement* and upload it to Moodle. Proctored Exams will be taken on-line. (Exceptions on individual basis). You and your proctor will be sent an email with on-line instructions. After completion of the exam, your exam will be graded by credential coordinator and you will be emailed your exam score.

Step #4

- **Attend Credentialing Seminar:** This is a 1-day mandatory seminar for License and Certificate of Ministry candidates and a 1-day seminar for Ordination candidates. It is held in February of each year [see the *Credential Calendar* for specific dates]. **It is a requirement that all candidates and their spouse/fiancée/fiancé [where applicable] attend the Credentialing Seminar.** Those Upgrading to License, who attended the

Credentialing Seminar as a Certificate of Ministry candidate, will not need to attend again until they seek Ordination.

- **Be Interviewed:** All credential candidates will be interviewed during the Credentialing Seminar.
 - 1) All applicants will be required to meet with the Minnesota District Credentials Committee for an interview.
 - 2) The purpose of the interview is to get acquainted, assist in areas of concern that may have been indicated on the application or on the written exam, and advise of benefits and responsibilities as a member of the Minnesota District.
 - 3) The applicant will be assigned to a Presbyterian or other approved interviewer who will call their references. The interviewer will then contact the applicant to ask a few questions over the phone or meet the applicant in person.
 - 4) The applicant will be notified of the time and place for the interview. **It is required that the spouse/fiancée/fiancé [where applicable] be a part of the interview.**
 - 5) Following the interview, the Credentials Committee [the District Presbytery Board] will approve or disapprove the granting of credentials. If approved, your file will be sent to General Council for final approval and issuing of the credential.
 - 6) The MN District Secretary's Office will notify the applicant if the decision of the District Credentials Committee is to deny or delay credentials. Should the applicant not agree with their recommendation, the applicant may appeal to the District Credentials Committee.

Step #5

- **Celebration Service** Approved credential candidates will be recognized at the District Council which convenes in April of each year [see the *Credential Calendar* for exact date]. Attendance is required at this event for all credential candidates and their spouse/fiancée/fiancé.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

DEADLINE DATE: All application materials from Steps 1 & 2 need to be received in the District Office on or before **October 1**. Step 3 (Exams) must be completed by **November 1**. No applications will be accepted after the October 1st deadline except for the Fast Track program and current NCU students.

CURRENT NCU STUDENTS: All application materials from Steps 1 and 2 must be received in the District Office by **November 1**.

IT IS THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BE SURE THEIR FILE IS COMPLETE BY THE DEADLINE DATE. IT IS NOT THE CREDENTIALING COORDINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REMIND THE APPLICANT OF THIS REQUIREMENT.

EXCEPTION FOR EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: **MNSOM and Global University Applicants** who have not completed their coursework by October 1st will be **allowed a short extension into December to complete their educational requirements.**

MINISTER'S TITHE RESPONSIBILITY

MINNESOTA DISTRICT COUNCIL:

100% of your tithe (10% of income) on **ministerial income** is to be paid to the Minnesota District Council. **This is a requirement for the annual renewal of ministerial credentials** (District Bylaws, Article X Finances, Section A, paragraph a page 28).

If your ministerial income is less than \$6,000:

- Your **minimum** responsibility to the Minnesota District (**for all levels of credentials**) is \$50 per month (\$600 for the year). **This is applicable even if you have no ministerial income.**
- If your **spouse** is also credentialed with the **Minnesota District** and their ministerial income is also less than \$6,000 – the minimum for one of the spouses is \$25 per month (\$300 for the year).
- This minimum responsibility is not over and above your tithe to your home church, but a portion of it.
- When ministerial income is **greater than \$6,000** for the year, the 100% tithe (10% of income) responsibility kicks in.

Online giving is available on our website (www.mnaog.org) for District Council tithes. We suggest you set up schedule recurring giving.

GENERAL COUNCIL DUES: (payable at giving.ag.org/home)

PAY DIRECTLY TO GENERAL COUNCIL – not to be included in your tithe to the District.

Certified Ministers \$ 10 per month (\$ 120)

Licensed Ministers \$ 20 per month (\$ 240)

Ordained Ministers \$ 25 per month (\$ 300)

The tithe due to the Minnesota District can be reduced by the amount paid to General Council **provided that at least** the minimum tithe is met to the Minnesota District.

If you have any questions regarding your tithe and/or dues, please reach out to the credential coordinator or the secretary/treasurer at 612.332.2400