

South Georgia Church of God

Ministerial Licensure Procedures



CALLING AND MINISTRIES STUDIES (CAMS)



- Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS) helps the applicants determine if they are called to clergy ministry, as well as providing knowledge about ministry. The desire is to help applicants develop the abilities to fulfill their divine call and place of ministry.
- There are two sections in CAMS—seminars and individual study.
- The three seminars, which are attended by both the applicants and their spouses, provide tools to enable the applicants to determine if they are called to clergy ministry. The seminars also offer an explanation of ministry.
- The individual study for applicants include conducting personal devotions, completing three training courses, and writing papers about their calling and understanding of ministry.
- The spouses will attend the three seminars and write papers about their calling and understanding of ministry.
- Prices: Single Candidate \$293/ Married \$443

MINISTERIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (MIP)



- The purpose of the MIP is to provide ministerial preparation by practical training on the local-church level, academic self-study, and monthly training seminars, focusing on vital topics for spiritual leadership and effectiveness.
- The MIP is required in order to advance from exhorter rank to the status of ordained minister.
- The MIP is comprised of three parts - Studies on the Bible, doctrine, and leadership; A supervised practicum with a pastor; and eight monthly seminars.
- The assignments of MIP candidates to supervising pastors are made on the basis of personal training needs, geographical factors, and availability. The seminars complement and add to the experience of the supervised practicum.
- In an effort to broaden the ministerial training experience, specializations in ministries will be offered in the MIP for various ministry focus areas.
- Prices: Single Candidate \$819/ Married \$994

MOBILIZE:



- Mobilize is a mentoring program that establishes a relationship between pastor and members. It is a pastor's tool for motivating and training members for spiritual leadership and ministry together. Mobilize provides curriculum to enable the pastor to lead participants in a half-day seminar once a month for one year.
- In Level One: The Foundation (six months), the pastor guides participants in becoming workers for Christ through two, three-month series of studies focusing on leadership skills and character formation.
- In Level Two: The Ministry Plan (six months), individuals choose, in consultation with the pastor, a specialization area of ministry that they personally desire to establish in their church. Level Two studies are divided into two, three-month sections focusing on ministry foundation and principles as well as ministry skills and practices.
- Specializations include twelve areas of ministry covering a wide array of ministries within the local church.
- Prices: Single Candidate \$396/Married (same specialization) \$452

SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION:

- Applicants seeking exemption from CAMS or MIP must have equivalent academic credits and sufficient ministerial experience. Academic transcripts, resume, and other documentation will be required.
- All decisions regarding exemption are made by the Division of Education and/or Executive Committee at Church of God International Headquarters.

ORDAINED BISHOP REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants for Ordained Bishop must be male and have completed CAMS & MIP (or equivalents).
- Applicant must be at least 25 years old with eight years of ministerial experience, or three years of active ministry accompanied by a ministry related degree or its equivalency

from an accredited institution or one certified by the Church of God DIVISION OF EDUCATION; or, 30 years old with five years of ministerial experience. Ministerial experience means date of first credential, or other documentation.

TRANSFERRING CREDENTIALS INTO CHURCH OF GOD

- Credentialed ministers from other qualified organizations who seek to be credentialed in the Church of God may be required to complete one or more courses that cover Church of God history, polity, and doctrine offered by the Church of God SCHOOL OF MINISTRY before the application for ministry is completed.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The School of Ministry (SOM) offers a Certificate in Ministerial Studies CIMS which is a curriculum of 20 courses, offering 35 CIMS credits to prepare ministers for relevant ministry. CIMS is internet and video lessons with textbooks and study guides to assist the student. Courses are in three areas of study—Biblical, doctrinal, and pastoral studies. A certificate is awarded at the completion of each section and at the completion of the entire CIMS curriculum. Scholarships and grants are available. The South Georgia Executive Office provides a 50% tuition grant for credentialed ministers. For more information visit www.ministerialtraining.org

The Division of Adult Learning at Lee University offers, online, programs for ministers who desire to continue their education. Ministers can pursue an online undergraduate degree in various concentrations, a Master of Arts in Ministry Studies, and a certificate program to strengthen one's skills in a particular discipline. Students who have been admitted to Lee University may receive credit for courses taken through the Church of God School of Ministry up to a maximum of 32 credit hours. These credit hours will be entered after the student has completed 12 credit hours at Lee University. School of Ministry students should request their SOM transcript be submitted to the Lee University registrar's office.

Pentecostal Theological Seminary is a graduate school dedicated to preparing pastors, counselors, chaplains, and ministry leaders for global evangelization and Kingdom impact. Courses are conveniently accessible on campus in Cleveland, Tennessee or through an online program. Intensive, weekly J-terms and occasional outreach courses located throughout the United States are also available.

Brewton Parker College offers residential undergraduate degrees who those ministers who want to study in South Georgia. In partnership with South Georgia Church of God, they will also accept CIMS credit earned in the CAMS and MIP programs. The HOPE grant may be applied for residents of Georgia.

RESOURCES

- www.sgacog.org
- www.cogdoe.org
- www.ministerialtraining.org

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- All applicants for ministry must have the baptism in the Holy Ghost.
- All ministers shall adhere to the teachings and doctrines as set forth by the International General Assembly of the Church of God.
- All ministers are required to pay tithes to retain their license.
- All applicants for ministry shall serve as exhorters before making application for ordained minister certificate, except ordained ministers coming from other reputable organizations, licensed ministers of music, and ministers of Christian education.
- All applicants for the ministry should be actively engaged in ministry before being recommended for credentialed ministry.
- All applicants for the ministry, including those advancing in rank, must give consent to the state/regional office to conduct criminal background checks.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Below are the guidelines for every rank of advancement in the ministerial credentialing process. See flow chart above for sequential advancements in rank.

- Secure application for interested level of credentialing from the State Office.
- All questions must be answered completely or application will be considered incomplete.
- Completed application must be reviewed and signed by the candidate's pastor and district overseer.
- Completed application must be returned to the State Office with a one-time \$50 processing fee.
- When the application is received, and reviewed by the State Office, a criminal background check will be processed.
- If the candidate has multiple marriages; or, if there are concerns about the criminal background check, the candidate will be asked to submit explanation during a ministerial credentialing interview (i.e. Initial Interview).
- After the application and required courses have been satisfactorily completed and processed, the candidate must be set forth by the local congregation in a business conference. The State Office will supply the Local Church Endorsement form.
 - The candidate must secure the study guide from the Division of Education and successfully complete the examination for the particular rank of ministry being pursued.
 - After testing, the application and all other documents will be forwarded to the International Offices where they will be reviewed and the certificate issued. This may take several weeks. Should the candidate (or spouse) have previous marriages this will require additional time.

I want to explore God's direction for my ministerial calling.
I want to be more actively involved in Kingdom work.

Local Church Ministry
(Guiding Thoughts: I want to serve my local church.
My Desire to assist my local pastor.)

Clergy Ministry
(Guiding Thoughts: My goal is to go into full-time ministry. I am open to ministering outside of my local church.)

Mobilize

Level 1 (6 Months)

Level 2 (6 Months)

Certificate

Information updated every 2 years

Credentials

New Minister, Calling and Ministry Studies (CAMS),
Exhorter, Minister of Music, and Minister of
Christian Education
Application

Initial Interview
(Objectives: Discuss the ministerial process,
evaluate future ministerial goals, and if applicable,
review previous marriage forms and criminal
background report)
(Applicants will be directed in one of two ways)

Mobilize

CAMS

Exit Interview

Exhorter

Exhorter's Test

Ordained Minister and Ministerial Internship
Program (MIP) Application

MIP

Ordained Minister Test

Ordained Bishop Application

Ordained Bishop Test