

All ministers are encouraged to complete the



### CERTIFICATE IN MINISTERIAL STUDIES

CIMS 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: [www.ministerialtraining.org](http://www.ministerialtraining.org)

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY

1. All applicants for ministry must have the baptism in the Holy Ghost.
2. All ministers shall adhere to the Teachings and Doctrines as set forth by the International General Assembly of the Church of God.
3. All ministers are required to pay tithes to retain their license.
4. 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.
5. All applicants for the ministry should be actively engaged in ministry before being recommended for credentialed ministry.
6. All applicants for the ministry, including those advancing in rank, must give consent to the state/regional office to conduct criminal background checks.

### MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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### DECLARATION OF FAITH

*The Church of God believes the whole Bible to be completely and equally inspired and that it is the written Word of God. The Church of God has adopted the following Declaration of Faith as its standard and official expression of its doctrine.*

### WE BELIEVE:

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. That He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God’s standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
12. In the Lord’s Supper and washing of the saints’ feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous, and eternal punishment for the wicked.



## MINISTERIAL LICENSURE PROCEDURES

### SOUTH GEORGIA CHURCH OF GOD EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**Bishop Gary Lewis**

*Administrative Bishop*

**P. O. Box 1370 – Tifton, Georgia 31793**

**(229) 386-2967**

## EXHORTER, MINISTER OF MUSIC\* MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION\*

1. The ministerial candidate must secure the **New Minister /CAMS application** from the State Office and complete in full. *All questions must be answered or application will be considered incomplete.*
2. Completed application must be reviewed and signed by the candidate's pastor and district overseer.
3. The completed application must be returned to the State Office with a one-time \$100 processing fee.
4. When the application is received and reviewed by the State Office, a criminal background check will be processed.
5. If the candidate has multiple marriages; or, if there are concerns about the criminal background check, the candidate may be asked to submit to an interview. *Any candidate, or spouse, with more than one previous marriage will be required to appear before the State Council, accompanied with their current spouse, for an interview.*
6. After the application has been satisfactorily processed, the candidate must be set forth by the local congregation in a business conference. The State Office will supply the pertinent form.
7. If the new minister candidate has limited ministerial experience, he/she may be required to complete the **MOBILIZE** Leadership Program under the direction of his/her pastor.
8. The candidate must satisfactorily complete the **CALLING AND MINISTRY STUDIES** (CAMS) program.
  - CAMS may be exempted if the applicant has been previously credentialed by another reputable organization, providing they meet other criteria. Or,
  - New ministers who have completed a similar program, or have equivalent academic credits and sufficient ministerial experience may be exempted. Transcripts and other documentation will be required.
  - All decisions regarding exemption are made by the Division of Education at Church of God International Headquarters.
9. The candidate must secure the **Exhorter's Study Guide** from the Division of Education and successfully complete the Exhorter's examination. (\*Minister of Music & Minister of Christian Education will be required to take an additional test, specializing in their respective area of ministry).



10. After testing, the application and all other documents will be forwarded to the International Offices where they will be reviewed and the Exhorter's certificate will be issued. This will take several weeks. *Should the candidate (or spouse) have previous marriages this will require additional time.*
11. Exhorter certificates will be mailed the District Overseer for signature and forwarded to the ministerial applicant.

## ORDAINED MINISTER

1. The ordained minister candidate must secure the **Ordained Minister/MIP application** from the State Office and complete in full. *All questions must be answered or application will be considered incomplete.*
2. Completed application must be reviewed and signed by the candidate's pastor and district overseer.
3. Once signed the completed application must be returned to the State Office.
4. When the application is received and reviewed by the State Office, a criminal background check will be processed.
5. If the candidate's marital status has changed since Exhorter's certification; or if there are concerns about the criminal background check, the candidate may be asked to submit to an interview.
6. After the application has been satisfactorily processed, the candidate must be set forth by the local congregation in a business conference. The State Office will supply the pertinent form.
7. The candidate must satisfactorily complete the **MINISTERIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM** (MIP).
  - MIP may be exempted providing the Ordained Minister applicant has 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 at Church of God International Headquarters.
8. The candidate must secure the **Ordained Minister's Study Guide** from the Division of Education and successfully complete the Ordained Minister's examination.
9. After testing, the application and all other documents will be forwarded to the International Offices where they will be reviewed and the Ordained Minister certificate will be



issued. This may take several weeks. *Ordained Minister Certificates will be mailed to the State Office for the signature of the Administrative bishop and then forwarded to the ministerial applicant.*

## ORDAINED BISHOP

1. Applicants for Ordained Bishop must be male and have completed CAMS & MIP (or equivalents).
2. Applicant must be at least 25 years old with eight years of ministerial experience; or, 30 years old with five years of ministerial experience. Ministerial experience means date of first credential, or other documentation.
3. The Ordained Bishop candidate must secure the **Ordained Bishop application** from the State Office and complete in full. *All questions must be answered or application will be considered incomplete.*
4. The completed application must be reviewed and signed by the candidate's pastor and district overseer.
5. Once signed, the completed application must be returned to the State Office.
6. When the application is received and reviewed by the State Office, a criminal background check will be processed.
7. If the candidate's marital status has changed since Ordained Minister certification; or if there are concerns about the criminal background check, the candidate may be asked to submit to an interview.
8. After the application has been satisfactorily processed, the candidate must be set forth by the local congregation in a business conference. The State Office will supply the pertinent form.
9. The candidate must secure the **Ordained Bishop's Study Guide** from the Division of Education and successfully complete the Ordained Bishop's examination.
10. After testing, the application and all other documents will be forwarded to the International Offices where they will be reviewed and the Ordained Bishop certificate will be issued. This may take several weeks. *Should the candidate (or spouse) have previous marriages this will require additional time.*
11. Ordained Bishop Certificates will be held in the State Office and presented to the ministerial candidate at the Ordination Service scheduled by the Administrative Bishop.