

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALING PROCEDURE



As per Article VI of the Loving God Fellowship constitution and bylaws titled “Ministers of the Gospel”, the Church may credential a person as a minister of the Gospel. A written request must be made by the applicant. An examination will be made of the applicant’s background, moral and religious character, and what previous Bible courses and/ or independent study the applicant has received. The credential is renewed on an annual basis. The credential may be revoked at any time.

CLASSES OF MINISTERS

Each class of minister will have distinct rights and privileges as listed below:

- a. **Commissioned Minister:** This recognition is given by the Senior Pastor/President of this church. Commissioned ministers are not authorized to perform marriages, funerals, and other ecclesiastical duties. Their duties are primarily to assist others in the Body of Christ.
- b. **Licensed Minister:** This recognition is given by the Senior Pastor/President of this Church. This recognition is for those who are somewhat seasoned in the ministry, but need further experience. Licensed ministers are authorized to perform marriages, funerals, and other ecclesiastical duties, and must be capable of doing so. A previously licensed minister may make application for a transfer of license from a recognized denomination, conference, or church. A minimum seasoning period of three years is required before a licensed minister can request ordination.
- c. **Ordained Minister:** This recognition is given by the Senior Pastor/President to those persons who have an "established" or "proven" ministry. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform marriages, funerals, and other ecclesiastical duties, and must be capable of doing so. A previously ordained minister may make application for a transfer of ordination from a recognized denomination, conference, or church.

SENIOR PASTOR/PRESIDENT’S AUTHORITY

The senior pastor of this Church shall have the authority to decide who, how or if a person will be credentialed by this Church to hold any of the three classes mentioned above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMISSIONED MINISTER

- Must have been a Christ Follower for at least three years.
- Must be of outstanding reputation.
- Must fully understand and support the LGF Mission, Vision and Model of Ministry (http://www.lovinggodfellowship.org/about_lgf).
- Must be in full agreement with the LGF beliefs and core values.
- Must be involved in at least one LGF approved ministry.
- Must be a giver of time, talent and finances in supporting LGF in fulfilling its mission and vision.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED MINISTER

- Meet all of the requirements of a commissioned minister.
- A Dimensions of Faith certificate from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. In order to qualify for the Dimensions of the Faith certificate, you need to complete all ten Dimensions courses. Course information and application can be found at <http://www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/dimensions/> . Courses are free if taken online and at minimal cost if ordered.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ORDAINED MINISTER

- Meet all of the requirements of a commissioned and a licensed minister.
- Be a licensed minister for at least three years.