

# ENTERING THE MINISTRY

This document is intended to be a guide to those desiring to be credentialed with the Associated Gospel Churches. The steps are outlined from initial contact right through to Induction and where applicable, eventually Ordination.

Whether the Applicant approaches an AGC church or a church approaches a person for ministry in that church, the steps are the same. In order to assist churches to find their new staff person and in order to assist pastors to discover their place of ministry, the following procedures have been developed. There are four stages in the Credentialing and Ordination Process, as illustrated and set out below.



## Stage 1: APPLICATION

The Application Stage begins when a person chooses to pursue ministry within the AGC and submits a **SELF-TEST QUESTIONNAIRE** to the National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials (NCDC). The **SELF-TEST QUESTIONNAIRE** (STQ) is located on the AGC website under the **Ministry Opportunities** tab (<http://www.agcofcanada.com/files/8915/3503/2756/STQ - 2018.pdf>). Once the STQ has been received and approved, the NCDC will notify the Applicant and provide the documents that will need to be completed. These documents include:

- The General Bible Knowledge Assessment – This assessment is not intended as a pass/fail to determine whether you go forward or not. It will, however, ...
  - help you understand your own grasp of the Bible;
  - make you aware of areas where you may need further study as you move forward in ministry;
  - help you prepare for a future Doctrine and Credentials Interview;
  - provide some insight to a Doctrine and Credentials Interview Team who may set some requirements in place for your continuing studies.
- The Ministry Application Form
- The Reference Form
- The Ministry Match Assessment Link

Processing of the Application will not occur until all required documentation has been received.

## Stage 2: COMPATIBILITY

The Compatibility Stage is achieved when:

- a person's Ministry Application has been reviewed and approved, and
- they have received a **Letter of Compatibility** from the National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials.

The Applicant is now free to pursue ministry within the AGC. AGC churches should not interview applicants for a ministry position until a **Letter of Compatibility** has been issued by the National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials.

## Stage 3: CERTIFICATE OF MINISTRY

Local AGC churches are responsible for requesting the National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials to arrange a Doctrine and Credentials Interview for their prospective candidate. This request can be initiated by the Pastoral Search Team, the Elders or the Board and is to be made in writing and emailed to the NCDC (<mailto:dcccred@agcoofcanada.com>). The interview MUST take place prior to introducing the candidate to the church as their recommended candidate for a ministry position. The Certificate of Ministry is received when compatible applicants have completed the following steps ...

- passed the Doctrine and Credentials interview, and
- accepted a call to an AGC church, or to a ministry position which has been affirmed by their local AGC church
- an Induction Service has been held at which time the Candidate receives their AGC credentials.

***NOTE:** Qualification for the Clergy Residence Deduction with Revenue Canada requires fulfillment of all three of the above steps.*

## Stage 4: ORDINATION

Upon request from the Elders/Board of an AGC church, the Ordination Stage is achieved when:

- a man has fulfilled all requirements prescribed during his initial Doctrine and Credentials Interview, and
- he has successfully passed the Ordination interview, and,
- an Ordination service is requested (in writing) and conducted by the AGC.

## RECOGNITION OF ORDINATION

In the case of a man previously ordained by a recognized church body, his successful passing of the Recognition of Ordination Interview will constitute the recognition of such previous ordination on the occasion of his induction into an AGC church.

### Stage 1: APPLICATION

The Application Stage begins when a person chooses to pursue ministry within the AGC and submits a **SELF-TEST QUESTIONNAIRE (STQ)** to the National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials (NCDC). The STQ is located on the AGC website under the **Ministry Opportunities** tab (<http://www.agcofcanada.com/files/8915/3503/2756/STQ - 2018.pdf>). Once the STQ has been received and approved, the NCDC will notify the Applicant and provide the documents that will need to be completed. These documents include:

- The Ministry Application
- The Reference Form
- The Ministry Match Assessment Link

### Stage 2: COMPATIBILITY

The Compatibility Stage is achieved when:

- a man's Ministry Application has been reviewed and approved, and
- he has received a **Letter of Compatibility** from the National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials

The Applicant is now free to pursue ministry within the AGC. AGC churches should not interview applicants for a ministry position until a **Letter of Compatibility** has been issued by the National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials.

### Stage 3: RECOGNITION OF ORDINATION

The Elders/Board of local AGC churches are responsible for requesting the National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials to arrange a Recognition of Ordination Interview **prior to** introducing the applicant to the church as their recommended candidate for a ministry position. Recognition of Ordination is achieved when compatible applicants have ...

- passed the Recognition of Ordination Interview,
- accepted a call to an AGC church, or to a ministry position which has been affirmed by their local AGC church, and
- an Induction Service has been held at which time the Candidate receives their Recognition of Ordination Certificate and AGC credentials.

***NOTE:** Qualification for the Clergy Residence Deduction with Revenue Canada and eligibility for a license to officiate weddings requires fulfillment of all three of the above steps.*

I. REGARDING STATUS BEFORE CANADA REVENUE AGENCY of CREDENTIALLED MINISTERS

The Associated Gospel Churches recognizes any individual who has met all credentialing requirements, been inducted into an AGC ministry and is currently employed by an AGC church, Fair Havens Ministries and/or administrative position with the Association to be considered as a “regular minister” within the Association.

(Revised and adopted by the National Board, October 2018)