

AFCM ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

1. What must I do to apply for credentials with AFCM?

- STEP 1: Contact the AFCM Canada office to request an application packet.
- STEP 2: Complete the application packet and mail it to the Regional Director of your area.
- STEP 3: Have a Pastoral and Personal recommendation form completed and sent directly to the Regional Director of your area.
- STEP 4: The Regional Director's office will contact you to schedule an appointment for a personal interview so that your application can be reviewed.
- STEP 5: A decision will be made by the Executive Committee as to the applicant's eligibility to receive credentials from AFCM, as well as the credential level (whether Christian Worker, Provisional Licensing, Ministerial License or Ordination) awarded the applicant.
- STEP 6: The applicant is notified of the decision by mail.

2. Who is qualified to receive ministerial credentials?

All believers are called to minister because every believer is commanded to share the Gospel with the lost. However, ministerial credentials pertain to those believers who have the responsibility of fulfilling full-time five-fold ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Teacher and Evangelist). His/Her function differs from a "Christian Worker" or a person serving in the ministry of helps in that a five-fold minister is recognized by civil authorities. He/She requires a higher level of accountability.

Moral qualifications:

In order for a person to assume a leadership role in the Christian ministry, we feel that the highest standards of personal conduct are expected. This includes managing a happy and healthy home life and abstinence from the use of tobacco alcohol (including wine), and /or illegal drugs.

The Bible establishes the spiritual and moral qualifications of five-fold ministers/elders in 1Tim. 3:2-7, as well as Titus 1:1-8.

- Blameless (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Temperate (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Sober (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Of good behaviour (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not a striker (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not greedy of money (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not a brawler (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not covetous (1 Timothy 3:3)
- A lover of good (1 Timothy 1:8)

Eligibility for Licensing / Ordination

AFCM uses the following criteria to test eligibility:

- One who has a divine call to a five-fold ministry.
- One who is in full-time ministry.
- One who has demonstrated this call.
- The minister must have studied and shown himself approved in handling the Word of God accurately.
- Others have recognized the call on the minister's life.
- The minister must maintain compliance with AFCM bylaws concerning doctrine and ethical standards.
- The minister must exhibit the proper fruit in character and ministry.

- The minister must devote significant time to preaching and teaching the Word of God from a recognized ministerial position requiring five-fold ministry.
- The minister should by virtue of his office, administer the ordinances of the church and conduct weddings/funerals.
- Except in church planting, a minister should derive most of his income from his ministerial duties.

The above mentioned requirements should not be construed as to minimize the importance of individuals who are involved in other forms of ministry; however, AFCM recognizes the need for establishing minimum requirements for those who intend to receive ministerial credentials.

AFCM recognizes ministers from other fellowships, but transfer of a minister's credentials will not be accepted unless the minister meets the requirements as set forth in the AFCM bylaws.

3. What is the difference between Provisional Licensing, Ministerial Licensing and Ordination?

- a) Provisional Licensing is for a minister with no prior experience or who is new to AFCM. Once a minister has held a provisional license for a one (1) year period, he/she may request ministerial licensing credentials by mailing a written request to the AFCM Canada office. In order to request ministerial licensing, one who holds a provisional license must meet the requirements of a Licensed Minister.
- b) Ministerial Licensing is for those individuals who are working part-time or full-time in five-fold ministry. In order to apply for ministerial licensing, one who holds a provisional license must have held that credential for a period of at least one (1) year and must meet the requirements of a Licensed Minister. A review of previous ministry activity will be required.
- c) Ordination is intended for those ministers who are working in five-fold ministry, have proven ministry experience, and are generally serving in a full time ministry. An individual must have held a ministerial licensing with AFCM for at least one (1) year and must meet the requirements of an Ordained Minister to request Ordination status.

4. Do I need to renew my credentials annually?

Yes. If initial application to AFCM has been submitted prior to the October 1 cut-off date, a renewal application must be completed and returned to the AFCM Canada office with dues payable for the following fiscal year and postmarked no later than December 31.

5. May I hold credentials with AFCM and another licensing/ordaining body?

Yes. There may be situations where a minister is credentialed through another organization and wishes to enjoy the benefits of licensing/ordination with AFCM as well.

6. May I hold licensing or ordination credentials with another body and be an "Affiliate Only" with AFCM?

Yes. "Affiliate Only" status is for those who choose to keep their ministry credentials with another organization as well as enjoy the benefits of registration with AFCM. For example, if the organization is unable to provide fellowship in the geographic region where the minister resides, he/she may join AFCM.

7. May I be registered with AFCM without having ministerial credentials?

Yes. If you are actively working in a Christian ministry environment (church, ministry, institution, organization), you may qualify for "Christian Worker" status when recommended by your Pastor.

8. If I hold credentials with another body, and am an "Affiliate Only" with AFCM, to which body should I submit in matters of discipline?

To the body who holds your credentials (license/ordination).