

ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES & GLOBAL NETWORK

Apostle Dr. Michael L. Hargett, Sr. PhD
Servant Leader

APPLICATION FOR MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS



APPLICATION FOR MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for applying for ministerial credentials with *ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES & GLOBAL NETWORK*

Enclosed you will find an application which requests various aspects of information.

All CONFIDENTIAL information collected and contained herein will assist us in understanding your life and ministry journey in preparation for credentialed ministry. ELFM will use the personal information we collected in this application to assess your spiritual, academic, emotional and relational qualities for credential in ministry. ELFM will not use your personal information for any other purpose without first seeking your consent, unless authorized or required by law.

***TO AVOID DELAY BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS!
WE ARE NOT A DOCUMENT MILL!***

After all questions have been fully answered, this application should be returned to our Central Office. This, along with any other application forms must be received before an interview will be scheduled with the Apostolic Council Credentials Review Committee (CRC).

*All paperwork submitted becomes the property of ELFM
No paperwork submitted will be returned to you!
Make copies of all paperwork to be submitted.*

- ❖ Enclose 2 current pictures of yourself (head shot and full length) and any letters of recommendation from Christian Leaders/Pastors who know you and your ministry in an addendum separately.
- ❖ Enclose a typed personal testimony and statement of basic doctrinal beliefs: salvation, baptism, Holy Spirit's role in the believer's life, etc. This statement should be submitted in (APA) standard college level essay format. Ten pages (including title and reference pages).
- ❖ Include all references and citations.

ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Christians have practiced ordination since New Testament times. In different eras, and in different churches, it has assumed different characteristics. ELFM practices ordination as a formal dedication of a person to a particular ministry. It is ordination to a task, with the blessings of the church. It is done in confirmation of the inward call of God, which the ordained professes, and it affirms trust in them as one who will faithfully serve Christ. Since ordination is for life, and may in time involve the life and work of several congregations and the reputation of the Church of Jesus Christ, haste should be avoided in calling anyone to ordination. However, it is appropriate for the local church to do so when they believe a disciple has demonstrated the call of God to the diaconate or the pastoral ministry.

The church issuing a call to ordination of a candidate for ministry has the responsibility to consider the candidate's sincerity, faith, doctrinal understanding, morality, ability and training for gospel ministries. This process involves considerable preparation and a number of steps, but the act itself consists of a simple, but solemn and prayerful, and the laying on of hands. An ancient symbolic gesture indicating the bestowal of trust, the New Testament church in setting apart Christian servants practiced the laying on of hands. This is a very personal act, in which representatives of God's people prays for, pours oil on the head and lays hands on the candidate, ordination in ELFM is usually performed by all of the ministers present, including those from other denominations. It is done with authority of apostolic succession. The act of ordination is functional, not sacramental.

The authority for licensure and/or ordination lies in the local church congregation. It is the local church congregation which calls one of its members to service and leadership. It is the congregation which recommends licensure and/or ordination. However, each local church has a responsibility, not only to the candidate and to itself, but also to the entire ELFM organization (and to the Christian world in general) to act responsibly and in the true spirit of the New Testament precedent.

The consecration of an Apostle in the modern church is a highly sacred and ceremonial event, often unique to each denomination and/or tradition. The process varies depending on theological perspectives, liturgical practices, and ecclesiastical structures. Below is the generalized procedure for sanctification and affirmation an Apostle in Eternal Life Fellowship Ministries, incorporating traditional elements along with contemporary practices:

Procedure for the sanctification and affirmation an Apostle in Eternal Life Fellowship Ministries

1. Preparation

- **Spiritual Preparation:**
 - The candidate being consecrated as an apostle should undergo a period of prayer, fasting, and spiritual discernment and extensive biblical doctrine training. This may last from a several months to few years, depending on the candidate's education and/or experience.
 - The candidate should be examined for their qualifications, including their calling, character, and understanding of Scripture and Doctrine of ELFM.
 - The Apostolic Council should meet to discuss the candidate's fitness for the role. This may include an evaluation of the candidate's experience in ministry, gifts of the Spirit, and ability to lead others.
- **Public Announcement:**
 - Prior to the affirmation, the church may announce the upcoming event to the congregation, inviting prayer and support from the community.
 - In some cases, a special retreat or series of teachings may be offered to prepare the church body for the significance of the affirmation.

2. Gathering of the Body

- **Venue and Setting:**
 - The affirmation typically takes place in a church setting, such as the main sanctuary or another appropriate venue, and is often accompanied by a worship service. The atmosphere should be reverent, with sacred music, prayer, and Scripture readings.
- **The Conclave:**
 - A private meeting of the Apostolic Council to affirm a new Apostle. The Apostles designated in this role are known as board of electors and must be an active Apostolic Council member, within 24-48 hours prior to the ceremony, the board of electors takes an oath of confidentiality and the meeting is sealed. The Candidate is interviewed and questioned concerning biblical truths and doctrine of Eternal Life Fellowship Ministries. The word "conclave" comes from the Latin cum clave, which means "with a key".
- **Participants:**
 - Senior fellowship leaders lead the affirmation from the Apostolic Council with recommendations from the Board of Bishops, or other high-ranking clergy. These individuals should have the authority within the tradition to affirm apostles with the rite of Apostolic Succession.
 - The congregation, including family and friends of the candidate, will also be present to witness the event.
 - The candidate may be surrounded by other apostles, prophets, or ordained ministers who will lay hands on them during the ceremony.

3. The Ritual of Affirmation

- **Opening Worship:**
 - The service may begin with a time of worship, hymns, and prayers, focusing on the glory of God and the significance of the Apostolic gifted office.
- **Scripture Reading and Reflection:**
 - A passage from Scripture is read to establish the biblical foundation for the apostolic office. Common texts may include:
 - Ephesians 4:11-13 (God's gift of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers).
 - Acts 1:15-26 (The selection of Matthias as an apostle).
 - 1 Corinthians 12:28 (God's order and gifts for the church).
 - A senior leader may deliver a brief reflection on the role and responsibility of an Apostle.
- **Oath of Commitment:**
 - The candidate makes a public declaration of commitment, often stating their willingness to serve the church and the Lord in the apostolic role. This may include a vow of loyalty to Christ, obedience to God's calling, and a promise to uphold the church's teachings and mission.
 - The candidate may also pledge to live a life of integrity, humility, and service, recognizing the weight of the apostolic responsibility.
- **Laying on of Hands:**
 - The laying on of hands is a central element of the affirmation. Senior leaders, often members of the Apostolic Council and visiting leaders place their hands on the candidate's head and shoulders as a symbol of the transfer of authority, power, and blessing.
 - This will be accompanied by prayers for the candidate's empowerment by the Holy Spirit.
 - This moment is marked by a powerful prayer asking for divine guidance, wisdom, and strength for the new apostle to carry out their duties faithfully.
- **Anointing with Oil:**
 - The candidate is anointed with consecrated oil. This act symbolizes the filling of the Holy Spirit, marking the candidate as set apart for the apostolic ministry.
 - A senior leader may perform the anointing, and the oil may be applied on the forehead or hands, depending on tradition.

4. Apostolic Charge

- **Mandate:**
 - The senior leader or bishop gives a formal charge to the newly consecrated apostle. This charge may include specific instructions, such as:
 - The Apostle's responsibility to establish and oversee churches, ministries, and leaders.
 - The need for spiritual integrity, vision, and the ability to guide others in truth.
 - A call to be a servant-leader, modeling Christ's humility and love.
 - The new Apostle is reminded of the weight of their calling to be a foundational leader in the church and the importance of spreading the gospel.
- **Commissioning:**
 - The new Apostle is formally commissioned for their work. This may include sending them out on a specific mission or assigning them to lead certain church initiatives. The commissioning is often a prayerful moment, with the congregation standing in agreement.

5. Final Prayers and Worship

- **Blessing:**
 - The service concludes with a final prayer of blessing and commissioning. The newly consecrated apostle may receive individual prayers from the congregation, and there may be a special moment of praise and worship in response to the new apostle's appointment.
 - The apostle may be officially presented to the congregation as the newly consecrated leader, with a time for fellowship and celebration following the service.

6. Reception and Fellowship

- **Celebration:**
 - After the formal affirmation, a time of fellowship and celebration may occur. This could involve a reception or meal, where the church family can greet the new apostle and express their support and congratulations.
 - The new Apostle may take the opportunity to share their heart, vision, and gratitude with the congregation.

Important Considerations

- **Doctrine and Ecclesiastical Tradition:** Some denominations have very formal and hierarchical processes for Apostolic succession and affirmation. Others, like Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, might have more flexible or spontaneous procedures.
- **Apostolic Calling:** The candidate's sense of divine calling and confirmation from the Holy Spirit plays a crucial role. It is often seen as more than just an appointment; it is an acknowledgement of God's work in the individual's life and ministry.
- **Certifications:** Each new Apostle will be presented with the following documentation:
 - Certificate of Affirmation
 - Certificate of Consecration
 - Apostolic Line of Succession (Includes Book of Complete Line)
 - Certificate of Appointment
 - Certificate of Commissioning (Includes the Apostle's Creed)
- **Investiture:** The vestments of the new Apostle shall include the following:
 - Colored Shirt
 - Cassock
 - Cincture
 - Rochet
 - Chimere
 - Tippet
 - Zucchetto (Male's only)
 - Mitre (Optional for Apostles)
 - Gold Pectoral Cross & Chain
 - Apostle's Ring
 - Bible (Can be personal one)
 - Crozier/Staff
 - Sword
 - Ministry Seal and Crest
 - Certificates & Documentation
 - The Apostolic Litany

- **The Apostolic Litany**

- SERVANT LEADER: JEHOVAH-TSIDKNU
CANDIDATE (S): GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS, HAVE MERCY UPON US.
- SERVANT LEADER: JEHOVAH M’KADDESH
CANDIDATE (S): GOD OUR SANCTIFIER, HAVE MERCY UPON US.
- SERVANT LEADER: JEHOVAH-ROPHE
CANDIDATE (S): GOD OUR HELPER, HAVE MERCY UPON US.
- SERVANT LEADER: JEHOVAH-JIREH
CANDIDATE (S): GOD OUR PROVIDER, HAVE MERCY UPON US.
- SERVANT LEADER: JEHOVAH-NISSI
CANDIDATE (S): GOD OUR BANNER, HAVE MERCY UPON US.
- SERVANT LEADER: JEHOVAH-ROHI
CANDIDATE (S): GOD OUR SHEPARD, HAVE MERCY UPON US.

In conclusion, consecrating an Apostle in the modern church is a sacred and communal event, combining elements of worship, prayer, and biblical tradition. It is a powerful affirmation of the individual's call to leadership within the body of Christ, and the ceremony serves as both a spiritual and practical commissioning for the Apostolic Five-Fold ministry mission.

Apostolic & Church Oversight of a Minister’s License

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there disciple that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift (NKJV).

Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses (NKJV).

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. (2)Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves (NKJV).

1 Corinthians 9:22 “I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some.” (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 9:23 “Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” (NKJV)

The Call to Examination

The local congregation formally begins the process of ordination by confirming the call of the candidate to examination, and if they are found qualified for ordination. The recommendation statement is as follows:

Whereas Brother/Sister _____, a disciple of _____
(name of church here), has given evidence that he (or she) is called of God to the Gospel ministry; and
whereas we believe the time has come when he should be formally set apart to that work; therefore, be it

Resolved:

That we call Brother/Sister _____ to examination, with a view to the ministry, and to ordination, provided that upon examination it appears to us that the time has come for such an action;

That we formed an Ordination Preparation Committee to examine his (or her) credentials;

That we called an Ordination Council to consider and pass upon the fitness of Brother/Sister _____, said council to meet with us at _____ o'clock (A.M./P.M.), on the _____ of _____ [Year] and;

That we invite sister churches in this organization and the ELFM to send delegates to said Board of Ministry Standards and the Apostolic Council.

ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Requirements for Ordination, Licensure, and Commissioning

Those seeking to become ministers in the ELFM must satisfy the ordaining Apostolic Council and local church body of their suitability and readiness for ministry.

All Ordination applicants must

1. *Be of the age of Twenty-one (21) years old or older.
**This requirement may be waived on a case-by-case basis.*
2. Must pledge their acceptance to the Apostle's Creed.
3. Must pledge that they are called of God to be a minister/elder in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. Must pledge their acceptance of the Apostolic Succession and Apostolic Authority of the church.
5. Must pledge an understanding that sacraments are a means used by God to impart grace and accept the real presence of Christ.
6. Must submit to a full credit and criminal background investigation.
7. Must complete ELFM ministerial training to exercise their respective gifts in ministries.

ELFM and the local church are admonished to exercise care in discerning the suitability and readiness of all applicants for ordination. ELFM ordinary jurisdictions provide sufficient educational opportunities through its institutes and seminaries for the training of those seeking ordination, licensure, and commissioning in the ministry when a local church lack such training.

Ordinations take place within the worshipping community of the candidate. Ministers/Elders come from the people; they are not chosen by the hierarchy and imposed upon a local congregation. There are cases, however, where the candidate has no current worshipping community. In such cases, ordination can take place at a suitable location chosen by leadership. The candidate (or candidates) for ordination are encouraged to bring friends and family to support them.

ELFM with 2 Timothy 4:5 is nontraditional and provides organizational support for ministries, much like the early church. Since we are a church as defined in scripture, having an ecclesiastical form of government, 2 Timothy 4:5 can provide church ministry leadership the support they need.

2 Timothy 4:5 offers non-denominational ministries the ability to maintain autonomy and be a part of an association. Non-denominational ministries seeking a real ministry relationship with an established ministry dedicated to your success, 2 Timothy 4:5 is here for you. 2 Timothy 4:5 takes the ordination of God with great reverence whether He ordains and individual or church ministry.

ELFM and its Affiliates can be assured that 2 Timothy 4:5 is interested in their financial wellbeing. The ministry financial commitment is such that your ministry benefits from a Biblically based financial covenant with 2 Timothy 4:5. We encourage prospective applicants to read the ELFM.

Since April of 2008 we have been applying 2 Timothy 4:5 and reaching around the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ through the ELFM if you have a passion to reach lost people, are called of God, and are committed to help fulfill the great commission, we are enthusiastic to have you as part of the 2 Timothy 4:5

2 Timothy 4:5 uses very specific set of Biblical qualifications, administered by mature Christian leaders dedicated to serving The Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that scripture reserves ordination to God and Himself alone. *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10) Therefore, ordination by man is subject to man's limitations, ordination by God is subject to God's limitless call.

The Licensure/Ordination Process & Guidelines

Introduction

Ordination is the responsibility of the local church. The following ELFM guidelines are not requirements for ordination or for future possible commissioning. However, information gathered in the ordination process may be helpful in the accreditation process, as well. These suggested guidelines are designed to assist local churches to better fulfill their ordination responsibilities and to assist candidates in their preparation for the Ordination Council.

Review of the Licensure/Ordination Process

- A. It is recommended the Council on Ministry be consulted regarding available ordination guidelines before the local church calls the candidate to examination.
- B. Ordination candidate prepares his/her credentials.
- C. Ordination Preparation Committee of the local church examines the credentials of the candidate to ensure the preparedness of the candidate for the Ordination Council.
- D. Ordination Council is called with association and denominational representation to examine the candidate and make a recommendation to the local church.

Ministers

1. Following receipt of a recommendation from the Ordination Council, the local church makes the final vote on the ordination of the candidate.
2. Ordination service is planned and carried out by the local church to take place no earlier than 27 days following an affirmative vote by the local church. The Ordination Preparation Committee of the local church will assist in the preparation of the candidate for the Ordination Council. Here are the suggested guidelines the church may wish to use for this new committee.

The Licensure/Ordination Preparation Committee

In order to encourage the preparedness of the ordination candidate, we urge local churches to establish an Ordination Preparation Committee.

Purpose of the Licensure/Ordination Preparation Committee

To carefully review the credentials of the candidate to see if they are in order for an Ordination Council and recommend that the church proceed with the examination and call to ordination.

Membership of the Licensure/Ordination Preparation Committee

The local church will choose the Ordination Preparation Committee. It can be established as a new group or an existing group in the local church (Diaconate, Advisory Board, etc.) may be chosen for this purpose.

The Role of the Licensure/Ordination Preparation Committee

The Ordination Preparation Committee should meet to carefully review the following suggested credentials of the candidate.

1. A written statement of the candidate's Christian experience.
2. A written statement of the candidate's call to the Christian ministry.
3. A statement of the spouse's support in this call would also be desirable and encouraging.
4. A verification of the candidate's educational background.
5. A resume of the candidate's work experience and/or previous ministry experience.
6. A written doctrinal statement on each segment of the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief.
7. Three letters of reference regarding his/her moral character. One of these letters should be from a person outside the church but from the community where the person is ministering.

When the Ordination Preparation Committee is convinced that the candidate's credentials are in order and that the candidate is prepared for the Ordination Council, the church should be notified. At this time the church is ready to call for Ordination Council. Please send a copy of the above credentials (letters and documents) to the Council on Ministry to be placed in the pastor's file.

Ordination and Sexual Conduct

Licensure/Ordination Standards

When a person has demonstrated a call to ministry it is appropriate for the local church to call that person to ordination. The church issuing a call to ordination has the responsibility to consider the candidate's sincerity, faith, doctrinal understanding, morality, ability, and training for gospel ministries.

Ministers

Licensure/Ordination and Sexual Conduct

Sexual conduct is a significant part of the morality of a pastor being considered for ordination. Sex between a man and a woman in the bonds of holy matrimony is a beautiful, pure and powerful part of the marriage union. However, sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage--such as fornication, adultery, and homosexual activity--is contrary to the will of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

We recommend to local churches that they not ordain individuals to the gospel ministry who openly practice sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage or are unrepentant of sexually immoral behavior as defined by scripture. (Past experiences should not be considered).

Accreditation and Sexual Conduct

ELFM does not extend or continue accreditation to individuals in the Gospel ministry who practice sexual activity outside the bonds of heterosexual marriage or are unrepentant of sexually immoral behavior as defined by Scripture.

ETEERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES & GLOBAL NETWORK
Apostolic Council of Churches Ministerial Credentials

Stages of Credentialing

- **License:** (This is issued conditionally) Supervised by the Local Church.
- **Ordination:** (This is issued for life) Acknowledges and recognizes God's calling you to operate your gift in ministry. Authorizes you to operate in your gift under the ELFM banner.
- **Commission:** (This is issued conditionally and requires membership in the fellowship). Approves you to fully operate (independently) with the full support and covering of the ELFM .
- **Appointment:** A Licensed and Ordained minister can be appointed to a position within the local church and/or fellowship. This is a conditional position and is subject to change without notice.

The purpose of a ministerial credential is to:

- *Affirm* God's call upon a person's life
- *Verify* that this person meets the qualifications and standards for ministry in the ELFM.
- *Approve* this person for ministerial service under the auspices of the ELFM.
- *Provide* legal status in the exercise of that person's ministry

There are five types of credentials in the ELFM:

- Ministry License (Vocational)
- Ministry License (Non-Vocational)
- Certificate of License
- Certificate of Ordination
- Certificate of Commission
- Certificate of Appointment

Application Check List

*All applicants are taken seriously and we earnestly pray before any decision is made.
Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but
acknowledge him and he shall direct your path"*

In order to facilitate your application, it is extremely important that you submit the application with all the required forms completed.

WE ONLY REVIEW COMPLETE APPLICATIONS!

✓ Check off the enclosed items:

- ☐ Recent color photo (2" X 2"; quality passport and full front view photo)
- ☐ Pastor/church official recommendation
- ☐ Application
- ☐ Self-addressed stamped envelope (1 "Forever" stamp)
(Address where you can receive notification)

Records and Certificate of Ordination

The clerk of the Apostolic Council and the clerk of the church should keep detailed records of the entire proceedings, seeing that they are entered into the permanent records of the ELFM and the local church. A copy should be sent to ELFM so that it will be on file when accreditation by ELFM is sought and states: *"This is to certify that after a satisfactory examination by a duly called council as to his (her) Christian experience, call to the ministry and religious faith (Name of Candidate) was licensed and/or consecrated to the Christian ministry by ELFM."*

APPLICATION FOR MINISTER CREDENTIALS

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Last 4 SSN (USA only): _____

ELFM Congregation where applicant is an active disciple: _____

Verification of Completion of Candidacy

Name of ELFM where Candidacy was completed: _____

Name of Supervising Clergy: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

By my signature, I certify that weekly Candidacy meetings/training was conducted with the Applicant and the Supervising Clergy and that the Learning/Serving Covenant was fulfilled:

Signature of Supervising Clergy_____
Date**Return Application**

Complete and return to ELFM (Keep copies of all forms for your own records!)

- Original copy of this form
- Endorsement Form
- Your Statement of Faith and Essay
- For transfer clergy, a paper outlining the experience and resolution process of leaving your former denomination.

When your completed Ordination application has been filed, you will be notified of the date of your ordination interview in writing. If you have questions, please ELFM Office of Leadership Development.

1. Additional Information

Date of Application: _____

Are you: Applying for initial credentials: _____

Transferring from another denomination Name of organization: _____

Point of Contact and Address of organization: _____

Indicate the credential for which you are applying: _____

2. General Information *(Please include a color passport sized photo with your application)*Full name *(as should appear on certificate)*:

First	Initial	Last
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3. APPLICANT'S MARITAL STATUS *(Indicate all categories that apply)*

a) Applicant's Current Marital Status: Single__ Married__ Widow(er)__ Divorced__ Remarried__

b) If you are divorced and remarried, is your former spouse living? Yes__ No__

c) Are you married to someone who is "remarried"? Yes__ No__

d) Name of spouse _____

e) Will your spouse be attending the minister's spouse 3 day course? Yes__ No__

4. CHILDREN

a) Names and birthdates of your children:

NAME	BIRTH DATE		NAME	BIRTH DATE	
	Year			Year	

b) Who disciplines your children? . . Father . . Mother . . Both . . Other

c) What part does prayer play in your home? . .

Prayer at meals

Devotions

Infrequent prayer

Bedtime prayer

Crisis prayer

No prayer

5. OTHER DEPENDENTS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Name	Relationship	Age

6. RESUME

Please provide on a separate sheet a resume of your life, work, and ministry experience.

7. EDUCATION

a) Secondary Schooling

NAME	DATE GRADUATED		DIPLOMA	
	Month			

b) Post-Secondary Education/Trade Schools

NAME	DATE GRADUATED		DIPLOMA	
	Month			

c) Bible College or Seminary

NAME	DATE GRADUATED		DIPLOMA	
	Month			

d) Diploma in Ministry Course(s)

NAME	DATE GRADUATED		DIPLOMA	
	Month			

Note: Please send copies of transcripts of your Bible College, University, Seminary, Correspondence Course, and/or any other applicable academic studies with your application.

a) Church or Organization:

b) Are you on staff? . . Yes . . No If “yes”, what is your position?

Full time___ Part time___ Volunteer Hours per week in ministry _____

c) Describe your ministry role and function in your current position:

9. Early Home Environment (Briefly describe your childhood.)

a) Describe the early spiritual influences or events that led to your application for ministry:

b) Characterize the impact of your home environment, giving examples of how it influenced your life:

c) Number of siblings: _____ Your birth order: _____

Additional Comments:

10. Ministry Experience

a) Describe your life's journey and your passion for ministry. Include incidents you feel were significant in your formation as a person and your call to ministry, personal ideals, goals and salvation experience:

b) What church do you currently attend?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Which denomination is it affiliated with? _____

Are you a member? Yes ___ No ___ How long have you been attending? _____

Pastor's name: _____

How many times a week do you attend? _____

c) What church activities are you involved in?

d) Which church did you attend while in Bible College/Seminary/ University?

Name: _____

How many times a week did you attend? _____

What activities were you involved in?

e) Which church did you attend prior to Bible College/Seminary/University?

Name: _____

How many times a week did you attend? _____

What activities were you involved in? _____

f) When and where were you baptized in water by immersion according to Matthew 28:19?

11. Call to Ministry

a) Please describe briefly: a) Your leadership style

b) Your worship emphasis

c) Your ministry, gifts, skills and strengths

d) Your vision for ministry

12. Finances

a) Briefly describe your current financial situation, noting whether you are a free will giver or you prefer to tithe and/or do you give beyond a tithe:

b) Please outline your views and experience on personal budgeting and money management:

13. Previous Applications/Credentials

a) Have you ever applied for, or held, ministerial credentials with another organization or denomination?
Yes___ No___

b) If yes, please give particulars noting type of credential held, and with what organization:

ORGANIZATION	CREDENTIAL HELD	DESCRIPTION OF CREDENTIAL

14. TRANSFERS FROM OTHER CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

This section is to be completed only by those who are transferring into The ELFM from other organizations.

- a) What grade of credentials do you now hold: _____ valid from _____ to _____. If ordained, the date of ordination (M/D/Y) _____
- b) As required by the General Constitution and By-laws, a copy of your:
1. Current Credential Card,
 2. Ordination Certificate (*if applicable*) must be included as part of this application
 3. Are you able to meet this request? Yes ___ No ___ If “no”, please explain:
- c) If you are granted a credential with ELFM, will you surrender any other credential you may have with another religious organization? Yes ___ No ___

15. POLICE RECORD CHECK (*must be enclosed*)

Date Conducted (must be within last 12 months): _____

16. REFERENCES (*must be mailed separately and directly to The ELFM Central Office*)

It is important that the people listed as references (*no family members*) know you well enough to answer such questions as “How would you describe the applicant’s spiritual maturity?” and “Was the applicant prompt and regular in work attendance?” If you are presently on a ministry staff, one of the ordained minister references must be from the Senior Pastor.

Senior Pastor	Name				
	Street Address				
	City	Province	Postal Code		
	Phone	Email			
General Reference #1	Name				
	Street Address				
	City	Province	Postal Code		
	Phone	Email			
General Reference #2	Name				
	Street Address				
	City	Province	Postal Code		
	Phone	Email			

17. WAIVER

Recognizing that the information on Credentials Reference Forms remains confidential between the referee and the Credentials Committee of The ELFM; I, the undersigned, hereby voluntarily waive any right or privilege to inspect or challenge the content expressed by those whose names I provide. I declare that to the best of my knowledge all of the foregoing information is current and true, and further agree to abide by the commitments made in this application.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Reference Form
(Senior Pastor Or Church Official)

1. APPLICANT**2. REFERENCE**

The applicant is applying to *The ELFM* for ministerial credentials. Please complete this form as carefully and frankly as possible as your insights are an important component in our final decision. Once completed, please send directly to our Central Office. The information provided will be kept **CONFIDENTIAL**.

Thank you for your assistance.

Name _____

Position _____

Name of Church _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

3. OBSERVATIONS

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____ years.

☐ Very Well ☐ Fairly Well ☐ Casually

2. What association have you had with the applicant? _____

3. How does the applicant interact with people outside of the church? _____

4. Comment on any strengths, spiritual gifts, or ministerial abilities that the applicant has.

5. Comment on any areas you think the applicant may benefit from training in. _____

6. If the applicant is married, briefly describe the marriage relationship. _____

4. EVALUATION

Using the grid below, to the best of your knowledge, evaluate the applicant in the areas listed by circling the appropriate response.

	Poor Average Exceptional	Unknown
Leadership Ability	1 2 3 4 5	
Christian Character/Integrity	1 2 3 4 5	
Commitment to Christ	1 2 3 4 5	
Response to Authority	1 2 3 4 5	
Potential for Ministry	1 2 3 4 5	
Dependability	1 2 3 4 5	
Communication Skills	1 2 3 4 5	
Cooperation	1 2 3 4 5	
Initiative	1 2 3 4 5	
Emotional Stability	1 2 3 4 5	
Acceptance by Peers	1 2 3 4 5	
Marital/Family Relationships	1 2 3 4 5	
Overall Evaluation of the Applicant's Suitability for Ministry	1 2 3 4 5	

5. Recommendation

Do you recommend this applicant for ministerial credentials? Yes___ No___

Comments:

6. Additional Comments

Thank you for your valuable input. Please use the space below, or include a separate page for additional comments that might assist us in our assessment of the applicant.

Signature _____ Date _____

**RECOMMENDATION FORM
(Senior Pastor Or Church Official)**

PASTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Applicant's Name: _____

To the applicant: If your pastor is your parent, spouse or other family disciple ask another disciple of the church's pastoral staff to complete this form.

TO THE PASTOR: The above named is applying for their credentials with ELFM.
Serious consideration will be given to your comments.
Thank you for your consideration.

Pastor's Name: _____

Church Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Country _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please answer the following questions:

- 1) How long have you known the applicant ? (Must be 6 months or longer.)
- 2) How well do you know him/her ? (Please check one.)
 - ☐ Very well, pastoral Relationship ☐ Fairly well, numerous personal contacts
 - ☐ Casually, few personal contacts ☐ By Name/Sight
- 3) In what form of Christian service has the applicant participated regularly ?
- 4) Please indicate what you consider to be the applicant's strenghts:
- 5) Do you know of any weaknesses of which we should be aware

6) Please evaluate the applicant in regard to the following categories

(Please mark with an X)

	EXCELLENT	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	POOR	NOT OBSERVED
Reliability: dependability, responsibility						
Maturity: personal development, ability to cope with life situations						
Emotional stability: reaction to stress, poise, mood stability						
Motivation: genuineness and depth of commitment						
Judgment: ability to analyze a problem						
Oral expression: clarity, coherence						
Financial responsibility: stewardship						
Interpersonal relations: rapport, cooperation, attitudes toward supervision						
Empathy: sensitivity to the needs of others						
Work habits: stamina, conscientiousness, perseverance, resourcefulness, initiative						
Leadership: creative thought, curiosity, self-confidence						
Personal appearance: cleanliness, grooming						
Integrity: honesty, moral character						

What, in your estimation, qualifies the candidate for the position in ministry?

Please Check One :

- ☐ **I highly recommend**
- ☐ **I recommend**
- ☐ **I recommend with reservation**
- ☐ **I *cannot* recommend**

Signature: _____

Date : _____

Please return this completed form to :

ELFM or give back to applicant in a sealed envelope.

Reference Form (General -1)

1. Applicant

Print and sign your name below and submit this form to individuals familiar with your ministry (non-family members). NOTE: By signing this form you are waiving your right of access to see this reference form.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. Reference

The applicant is applying to *The* ELFM for ministerial credentials. Please complete this form as carefully and frankly as possible as your insights are an important component in our final decision. Once completed, please send directly to our Central Office. The information provided will be kept CONFIDENTIAL. Thank you for your assistance.

Name _____

Position _____

Church _____ Phone _____

Address _____

3. Observations

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____ years.

☐ Very Well ☐ Fairly Well ☐ Casually

2. What association have you had with the applicant? _____

3. How does the applicant interact with people outside of the church?

4. Comment on any strengths, spiritual gifts, or ministerial abilities that the applicant has.

5. Comment on any areas you think the applicant may benefit from training in. _____

6. If the applicant is married, briefly describe the marriage relationship. _____

4. Evaluation

Using the grid below, to the best of your knowledge, evaluate the applicant in the areas listed by circling the appropriate response.

	Poor Average Exceptional	Unknown
Leadership Ability	1 2 3 4 5	
Christian Character/Integrity	1 2 3 4 5	
Commitment to Christ	1 2 3 4 5	
Response to Authority	1 2 3 4 5	
Potential for Ministry	1 2 3 4 5	
Dependability	1 2 3 4 5	
Communication Skills	1 2 3 4 5	
Cooperation	1 2 3 4 5	
Initiative	1 2 3 4 5	
Emotional Stability	1 2 3 4 5	
Acceptance by Peers	1 2 3 4 5	
Marital/Family Relationships	1 2 3 4 5	
Overall Evaluation of the Applicant's Suitability for Ministry	1 2 3 4 5	

5. Recommendation

Do you recommend this applicant for ministerial credentials? Yes ___ No ___

Comments:

6. Additional Comments

Thank you for your valuable input. Please use the space below, or include a separate page for additional comments that might assist us in our assessment of the applicant. _____

Signature _____ Date _____

REFERENCE FORM (General -2)

1. Applicant

Print and sign your name below and submit this form to individuals familiar with your ministry (non-family members). NOTE: By signing this form you are waiving your right of access to see this reference form.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. Reference

The applicant is applying to *The* ELFM for ministerial credentials. Please complete this form as carefully and frankly as possible as your insights are an important component in our final decision. Once completed, please send directly to our Central Office. The information provided will be kept CONFIDENTIAL. Thank you for your assistance.

Name _____

Position _____

Church _____ Phone _____

Address _____

3. Observations

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____ years.

☐ Very Well ☐ Fairly Well ☐ Casually

2. What association have you had with the applicant? _____

3. How does the applicant interact with people outside of the church?

4. Comment on any strengths, spiritual gifts, or ministerial abilities that the applicant has.

5. Comment on any areas you think the applicant may benefit from training in. _____

6. If the applicant is married, briefly describe the marriage relationship. _____

4. Evaluation

Using the grid below, to the best of your knowledge, evaluate the applicant in the areas listed by circling the appropriate response.

	Poor Average Exceptional	Unknown
Leadership Ability	1 2 3 4 5	
Christian Character/Integrity	1 2 3 4 5	
Commitment to Christ	1 2 3 4 5	
Response to Authority	1 2 3 4 5	
Potential for Ministry	1 2 3 4 5	
Dependability	1 2 3 4 5	
Communication Skills	1 2 3 4 5	
Cooperation	1 2 3 4 5	
Initiative	1 2 3 4 5	
Emotional Stability	1 2 3 4 5	
Acceptance by Peers	1 2 3 4 5	
Marital/Family Relationships	1 2 3 4 5	
Overall Evaluation of the Applicant's Suitability for Ministry	1 2 3 4 5	

5. Recommendation

Do you recommend this applicant for ministerial credentials? Yes___ No___

Comments:

6. Additional Comments

Thank you for your valuable input. Please use the space below, or include a separate page for additional comments that might assist us in our assessment of the applicant. _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Applicants - Please Answer the Following Questions.

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, please provide details on a separate attached sheet.

- _____Yes _____No 1. Have you ever been refused a professional license?
- _____Yes _____No 2. Have you ever been charged with or convicted of a felony, misdemeanor or crime other than minor traffic violations?
- _____Yes _____No 3. Have you now or ever had problems with the use of alcohol, stimulants or habit forming drugs?
- _____Yes _____No 4. Have your debts been or are they now unmanageable?
- _____Yes _____No 5. Have you previously applied and been turned down for licensing/credentialing within the ELFM? If yes, when and where?
- _____Yes _____No 6. Have you ever been the subject of disciplinary action by an employer licensing organization alleging sexual or ethical misconduct?
- _____Yes _____No 7. Have you ever been the subject of ecclesiastical discipline by a church or denomination?

By your signature below you understand and agree that an investigation of any or all of these matters may be conducted by ELFM to determine your eligibility to pursue credentialing within the Fellowship. You also understand and agree that you will be subject to removal from the credentialing process if it is later determined that your answer to any of the above questions was false.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Code of Conduct

The following is a code of conduct ELFM uses internally to define unbecoming conduct, disloyalty and dereliction of duty.

Unbecoming Conduct

1. Pattern of public drunkenness or substance abuse
2. Misappropriation of church funds or property
3. Misuse of the powers of the pastoral office for personal or sexual gain
4. Any sexual relations with persons below the age of consent
5. Non-consensual physical abuse or violence
6. Sexual relations between supervisors and those they supervise or counselors and those they counsel
7. Pattern of deceit or dishonesty
8. Creating a person-centered ministry rather than a Christ-centered ministry, i.e. creating emotional dependency on the pastor, abuse of authority, divisiveness
9. Knowingly violating the sanctity of another person's relationship covenant
10. Inappropriate violation of confidentiality
11. Sexual harassment, i.e. any sexually related behavior that is unwelcome, offensive, and which fails to respect the rights of others
12. Engaging in any type of psychological counseling for which they are not licensed as required by applicable civil laws and do not hold appropriate credentials. ELFM clergy credentials do not license one to do such counseling

Disloyalty

13. Patterns of deliberate or malicious acts which ELFM or bring harm to a person, a congregation or other church body within the ELFM
14. Initiating or performing a ministry which is unauthorized & unaccountable to ELFM
15. Undermining the authority and ministry of the pastor

Dereliction of Duty

16. A pattern of deliberate non-attendance at ELFM General or Regional Conferences (A minimum of one conference in two years is required for ordained clergy.)
17. A pattern of ministry that leaves churches weakened rather than strengthened
18. Leading a church into unreasonable indebtedness or other breach of fiduciary responsibilities
19. Negligent supervision
20. Failure to report acts of misconduct

I pledge to uphold the ELFM Code of Conduct.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

WE ARE NOT A DOCUMENT MILL!

WE ORDAIN YOU FOR LIFE!

Ordination Will Be Granted To You on The Vows You Have Taken
All Supporting Documentation Must Be Included With Your Application For Us To Consider You For Professional Ordination
In This Beloved Ministry.

***To Be Considered For Ordination You Must Include A Passport Size And
A Full Length Front View Photographs with This Application.***

Go Into The Highways And Hedges And Compel Them To Come In!

Our Statement of Beliefs for Ministers

"When you become ordained by this council of churches you become part of a greater blessing, an anointed prophetic vision and a worldwide mission! You shall have great favor in the eyes of god and your ministry will grow and greatly prosper in all things and among all peoples of the earth!"

***Apostle Dr. Michael L. Hargett, Sr. PhD
Servant Leader***

1. We believe and know that God exists and is pleased with all who draw nearby faith. We worship the one and only holy and loving God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit eternally. God has created all things visible and invisible, has brought salvation and new life to humanity through Jesus Christ, and continues to sustain the church and all things until the end of the age.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word of God become flesh. He is the Savior of the world, who has delivered us from the dominion of sin and reconciled us to God by his death on the cross. He was declared to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead. He is the head of the church, the exalted Lord, the Lamb who was slain, coming again to reign with God in glory.
3. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal Spirit of God, who dwelled in Jesus Christ, who empowers the church, who is the source of our life in Christ, and who is poured out on those who believe as God's guarantee of redemption.
4. We believe that all Scripture is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit for instruction in salvation and all training in righteousness. We accept the Scriptures as the Word of God and as the fully reliable and trustworthy standard for Christian faith and life. Led by the Holy Spirit in the church, we interpret Scripture in harmony with our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. We believe that God has created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and that God preserves and renews forever what he has made. All creation has its source outside itself and belongs to God the Creator. God is good and provides all that is needed for life.
6. We believe that God has created human beings in his divine image. God formed them from the dust of the earth and gave them a special dignity among all the works of his creation. Human beings have been made for a loving relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation.

7. We confess that, beginning with Adam and Eve, humanity has disobeyed God, given way to the tempter, and chosen to sin. All have fallen short of the Creator's intent, have marred the image of God in which they were created, disrupted order in the world, and limited their love for others. Because of sin, humanity has been given over to the enslaving powers of evil and death and only through the shed blood of Christ Jesus upon the Cross of Calvary can man be redeemed and receive salvation which is only by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

8. We believe that, through Jesus Christ, God offers salvation from sin and a new way of life. We receive God's salvation when we repent and accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. In Christ, we are reconciled with God and brought into the reconciling community. We place our faith in God that, by the same power that raised Christ from the dead, we may be saved from sin to follow Christ and to know the fullness of salvation.

9. We believe that the church is the assembly of those who have accepted God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It is the new community of disciples sent into the world to proclaim the reign of God and to provide a witness of the church's glorious hope. It is the new society established and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

10. We believe that the mission of the church is to proclaim and to be a sign of the kingdom of God. Christ has commissioned the church to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all things he has commanded.

11. We believe that the baptism of believers in the immersion of water is a sign of their cleansing from sin. Baptism is also a pledge before the church of their covenant with God to walk in the way of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers are baptized into Christ and his body by the Spirit, water, and his blood that was shed on the cross at Calvary.

12. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sign by which the church thankfully remembers the new covenant which Jesus established by his death. In this communion meal, the church renews its covenant with God and with each other and participates in the life and death of Jesus Christ, until he comes.

13. We believe that in the washing of the feet of his disciples, Jesus calls us to serve one another in love. Thus, we acknowledge our frequent need of cleansing, renew our willingness to let go of pride and worldly power, and offer our lives in humble service and sacrificial love to our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus.

14. We believe that ministry is a continuation of the work of Christ, who gives gifts through the Holy Spirit to all believers and empowers them for service in the church and in the world. We believe that God calls particular persons in the church to specific leadership ministries and offices. All who minister are accountable to God the Lord Jesus and to those that God has placed in leadership to insure the unity of the Church.

15. We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is one body with many members, ordered in such a way that, through the one Spirit, believers may be built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

16. We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to discipleship, to take up the cross and follow him. Through the gift of God's saving grace, we are empowered to be disciples of Jesus, filled with his Spirit, following his teachings and his path through suffering to new life. As we are faithful to his way, we become conformed to Christ and separated from the evil in the world.

17. We believe that to be a disciple of Jesus is to know life in the Spirit. As the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ takes shape in us, we grow in the image of Christ and in our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is active in individual and in communal worship, leading us deeper into the experience with the Lord Jesus and our Heavenly Father.

18. We believe that God intends human life to begin in families and to be blessed through families. Even more, God desires all people to become part of the church, God's family. As single and married members of the church family give and receive nurture and healing, families can grow toward the wholeness that God intends. We are called to chastity and to loving faithfulness in marriage.

19. We commit ourselves to tell the truth in all things and to honor God with the taking of vows of faith and giving cheerfully to the work of the cross and the ministry of the church on the world mission fields.

20. We believe that everything belongs to God, who calls the church to live in faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us, and to participate in the work of the cross and to rest our faith on the finished work of Christ and the promises of God.

21. We believe that peace is the will of God. God created the world in peace, and God's peace is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who is our peace and the peace of the whole world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we follow Christ in the way of peace, doing justice, bringing reconciliation, and practicing non-violence, even in the face of violence and warfare. We believe we have a biblical duty to go forth in the time of war to defend our nation and the lands that God has given us while seeking to bring peace to all and to care for those who have been hurt or wounded in such wars as we serve as the spiritual leaders on such battlefields that may befall our beloved nation.

22. We believe that the church is God's holy nation, called to give full allegiance to Christ, its head and to witness to every nation, government, and society about God's saving grace.

23. We place our faith, hope and assurances in the reign of God and his fulfillment in the day when Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. He will gather his church, which is already living under the reign of God. We await God's final victory, the end of this present age of struggle, the resurrection of the dead, and a new heaven and a new earth.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Spiritual Objectives

1. Complete commitment to the authority of God's word and God's will.
2. Knowledge of Biblical standards and principles for Christ like living and yielders to the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible which is the living word of God.
3. Cultivation of the habits of obedience, prayer, bible study and Christian fellowship as helpful and necessary means of growth in the Christian's relationship with Christ.
4. Appreciation for the privilege and acceptance of the responsibility to share the Lord Jesus Christ with those around us, as well as, throughout the world.
5. Through the teaching of the Holy Spirit gain knowledge and wisdom of the nature, mission and ministry of the church and understanding God's plan and method of world evangelism.
6. Awareness of God's calling of one's natural and supernaturally bestowed gifts and abilities.
7. The spiritual development of natural and supernatural gifts through the study of the living word of God and of the principals of preaching, teaching, counseling and WORLD.

Missions

1. The preaching and spreading of the Gospel among all peoples of the earth.
2. To Respond as the Lord commands us to be God's Love In Action as a doer of the word and not hearers only.
3. To ordain, empower and field independent God called ministers of the Gospel and missionaries for the World Mission Fields.
4. To grant Church Charters for the founding of local independent Churches.
5. To continue to build and expand our Bible educational courses for home study with our Kings Cross Victory Bible college.
6. To continue the humanitarian work of the cross in the lives of the very poor, hungry, homeless and the sick.

Those we lovingly ordain are required to abide by the above beliefs and practices of this their mother church and to honor God in all things as ministers of the Gospel of Christ Jesus!

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Ordination Questionnaire

Instructions: This questionnaire is for completion by candidates for ordination/licensure to **ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES**.

Please give your own convictions and views on all questions. The guide has been designed for brief answers. **A more lengthy answer is desirable where you are asked to express your views more fully. Give scriptural support for views stated.**

1. Spiritual Life

- A. Give a testimony of your conversion experience.
- B. Relate briefly your experiences in the life of the church.
- C. What are you doing to see that others come to know Jesus Christ?
- D. Relate your “call to the ministry.”
- E. How do you nurture your own spiritual life?
- F. Which people and books have influenced you most?

2. Doctrinal Stance

A. Doctrine of the Scriptures

- 1. Relate briefly how you view the Bible as the final authority in all questions regarding faith and practice.
- 2. Discuss briefly your views on the scriptures with reference to “inspiration” and “revelation.”

B. Doctrine of God. Provide a brief resume of your views regarding:

- 1. The nature of God.
- 2. God in creation.
- 3. God in redemption.

C. Doctrine of Christ. Discuss briefly:

- 1. His incarnation.
- 2. His deity.
- 3. His death and resurrection.
- 4. His present lordship and final triumph.

D. Doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Discuss the Holy Spirit in terms of:

1. His part in the Trinity.
2. His work in relation to the unbeliever.
3. His work in the life of the believer.
4. The place of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the church.
5. The place of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the church.
6. State your view of the charismatic movement.

E. Doctrine of man and sin. Explain your view regarding:

1. The state and the condition of the first man created by God.
2. The nature of the fall of man and the consequences of that fall.
3. The meaning of original sin.
4. The meaning of sin in relationship to God.
5. The penalty of sin.

F. Doctrine of salvation. Write briefly on:

1. The meaning of redemption.
2. The meaning of conversion.
3. The relationship of justification to sanctification.
4. God's grace and human responsibility.

G. Doctrine of the church. Explain your view regarding:

1. The nature and mission of the church.
2. The significance of the local church.
3. The church ordinances.
4. Church membership.
5. Church discipline.

H. Doctrine of love and nonresistance.

I. Doctrine of the fivefold ministry.

1. Apostle.
2. Prophet
3. Evangelist
4. Pastor
5. Teacher

J. Doctrine of last things. Write briefly on:

1. The second coming of Christ.
2. Resurrection and judgment.
3. Eternal Life.

K. Social and spiritual issues. Give your view of:

1. Marriage of believers with non-believers.
2. Divorce and remarriage.
3. Sexuality – pre-marital sex, extra-marital sex, homosexuality.
4. Observance of the Lord's Day.
5. Swearing of the oath, and secret orders.
6. Social drinking, the use of tobacco and non-prescription drugs.
7. Abortion.

3. Church Polity

- A. What is your view of the organizational structure of the local church?
- B. What is a pastor's role in the local church?
- C. How do you visualize the implementation of a ministry of evangelism and social action through the local church?
- D. What is your view as to how mutual accountability ought to be practiced in the church?
- E. What is your view regarding the ministry of women in the church?
- F. What is your view as to how the local church ought to relate to the Conference?

4. Denominational Relationship

2. Why have you chosen ELFM church as your place of fellowship and ministry?
3. Which aspects of the ELFM structure and polity impress you most?
4. Do you have any reservations regarding the Confession of Faith? If so, please explain what these reservations are and the Biblical basis for your views.
5. In which ways are you willing to give active support to the program of the conference of ELFM and to serve in a brotherly manner with your fellow workers?

ELFM & GLOBAL NETWORK Code of Ethics (Fellowship)

- I will always devote time to seeking the will of God through diligent study in the Scriptures and prayer.
- I will endeavor to keep myself physically fit and emotionally stable.
- I will seek in all ways to be Christ like in my attitude and conduct.
- I will seek mutual accountability and spiritual friendship with fellow Christians for personal encouragement and nurture in order to ensure faithfulness to my calling as a steadfast follower and competent servant of my Lord Jesus Christ.
- In Relationship to My Family
- I will consider each disciple of my immediate family as precious gifts from God, and will carefully, lovingly and responsibly meet their needs as a sacred obligation before Him.
- I will give spiritual leadership in my home.
- I will be faithful and loyal to my family members, loving them as Jesus Christ loves His Church.

In Relationship to the Church

- I will re-disciple that I am called to lead, but also to serve.
- I will never violate a confidence given to me.
- I will be diligent in my duties as pastor, never lazy, but with God as my judge and my Shepherd.
- I will be Biblical in my preaching, presenting the whole counsel of God, speaking the truth in love.
- I will strive to introduce people to Christ, and to build His Church.
- I will consider my call to the church a sacred responsibility and stand by the decision.
- I will seek the unity of the church and resist any attempts to divide.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ELFM & GLOBAL NETWORK Code of Ethics (Ministers)

In Relationship to Other Ministers

I will be a brother in Christ to my fellow ministers.

I will not seek to build my church at the expense of another church, nor my ego at the expense of another minister.

I will not speak uncharitably of any disciple of clergy.

I will abstain from fruitless debates which are of little value and serve to cause any form of division within the body.

In Relationship to ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES & GLOBAL NETWORK

I will participate in the larger fellowship of ELFM, and seek to support through prayer and action its aims and objectives.

I will fulfill my fellowship, ministry and financial obligations to ELFM to the best of my ability as the Lord leads and provides.

In Relationship to the Community

I will seek to be responsible in my personal finances.

I will seek to build a positive relationship with the community without sacrificing my ministry to the church.

I will never misuse my position or credentials in pursuit or promotion of any political agenda.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ELFM & GLOBAL NETWORK Code of Ethics (Churches)

The Christian Church is the Body of Christ and is destined to be His Bride; inasmuch as every local church is an expression of the whole Body it is needful for her to be committed to vigilance in all of her relationships...

In Relationship to Christ

Believing that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, we will honor and exalt Him in all of our relationships and ministries. We will keep ourselves free from all policies and practices which might tend to mar the beauty of the Bride of Christ.

In Relationship to Fellow Members

Believing that the local church is an expression of the family of God, we will promote unity among the members of the congregation, resisting all jealousy, rivalry, self-seeking and division which would disturb that unity. We will "... make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." (Romans 14:19)

In Relationship to Other Churches

Believing that the Church is a universal body, we will attempt to maintain honorable relationships with other churches in the community.

In Relationship to the Community Believing that the witness of the church in the community affects the ministry of that church to the community and reflects on Christ, the Head of the Church, we will endeavor to keep our dealings with agencies, businesses and individuals in the community honest and above reproach.

In Relationship to ELFM

Believing that our membership in ELFM is not only a privilege but also involves responsibility. We will fulfill our fellowship, ministry and financial obligations to ELFM to the best of our ability.

I will uphold the doctrines and principles of ELFM.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

**ELFM & GLOBAL NETWORK
Code of Ethics (General)**

In Relationship to the Pastor and Other Leaders of the Church

Believing that the pastor and other spiritual leaders are shepherds of Christ's flock, we will love, honor and submit to them as they, by example and word, watch over our souls.

We will support the pastor financially so that he may be able to meet his obligations without bringing reproach upon himself or us.

We will not allow anything among us that would undermine the pastor's ministry or rob him of the confidence of the church and the community.

We will endeavor to respond to all criticism dealing with the pastor, other spiritual leaders, or their families in an honorable manner, not tolerating subversive or clandestine meetings.

Whenever legitimate criticism or charges against anyone arise, we will follow Scriptural direction for church discipline, always with a desire for reconciliation and restoration and always making use of the cloak of love.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Spiritual History:

1. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Yes ____ No ____
2. Have you been water baptized? Yes ____ No ____
3. How long have you had a personal relationship with Christ? _____
4. Describe how you came to faith in Christ.
5. Have you established Jesus as your sanctifier and Lord? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, please describe what that means to you.
6. Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, please describe how the Holy Spirit has empowered your life and ministry.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Church History:

1. Please list the name and address of the church you currently attend.

2. Are you a disciple in good standing? Yes ____ No ____

3. If no, name and address of the church that holds your membership:

4. What is your role, if any, in your local church

Marital History:

Marital Status: _____ If married, when? _____

Spouse's name: _____

1. Have you ever been divorced? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, when? _____
(If yes, please complete the application marriage addendum.)
2. Has your spouse ever been divorced? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, when? _____
(If yes, please complete the application marriage addendum.)
3. Does your spouse have a personal relationship with Christ? Yes ____ No ____
If so, how long has your spouse known the Lord? _____
4. Describe how your spouse came to faith in Christ.
5. Describe your spouses' support (or lack thereof) of this application.

Family History:

1. Please state the names, ages and gender of each of your children.
2. Which, if any, of these children are still living at home?

Ministerial History:

1. Do you currently hold credentials with any other organization? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, name and address of the organization:

If yes, describe your expected future relationship with that organization.

2. Have you ever been denied credentials by any organization. Yes ____ No ____
If yes, please describe.

3. Have you ever had ministerial credentials revoked/suspended. Yes ____ No ____
If yes, please describe, including the resolution of the matter.

Ministerial Experience (attach résumé if desired):
Area of Service/Organization: Dates of Service:

Educational History:

1. School Degree or Diploma Date completed
2. Significantly influential conferences/seminars attended:
3. Describe any books that profoundly impacted your views on life and ministry and how they affected your thinking.

General Information:

1. What is your present means of financial support?

2. Do you have a non-ministry trade or profession? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, please describe.

3. Do you have outstanding debts (other than a home mortgage)? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, please describe your process for retiring that debt.

4. Do you have a record of any illegal activity? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, please describe the resolution and/or status.

Ministerial Plans and Projections:

1. Please explain why you are applying for ordination with the ELFM Network .
2. To what specific ministry do you feel called? Describe your calling.
(If ministry outside the U.S.A., which country?)
3. In what ways will ordination in the ELFM enhance that ministry?
4. Do you have any doctrines or beliefs that conflict with the ELFM Statement of Faith? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, please describe:
5. Describe the extent to which you anticipate interacting with ELFM Network of pastors and leaders in the days ahead.

ELFM & GLOBAL NETWORK Self-Study Guide

(For meeting the educational requirements for ordination)

Applicants who do not meet the formal educational requirements for ordination may be ordained after a carefully designed, mentored, self-study process. That process is to be designed in concert with the applicant's mentor and approved by the ELFM Board of Directors.

Each mentored self-study should include a combination of Core Requirements and Electives. All books/courses in the Core Requirements section must be completed. Electives are determined by the applicant's stated calling and interest. No more than one book/course should be assigned per quarter (for a maximum of 8 books/courses in a two-year mentored self study.)

Applicants may request, through their sponsoring member, that these requirements be altered or waived in lieu of the applicant's life experience and demonstrated understanding of the subject matter. An applicant, who meets all other requirements, will receive Candidate Status after a personal interview with the ELFM board. Full ordination will be issued after the educational requirements are met.

Core Requirements:

All applicants must demonstrate an understanding of the topics listed:

Biblical Knowledge:

Biblical Foundations—ELFM Course

Old Testament Survey—ELFM Course or *Survey of the OT*, Paul N. Beware

New Testament Survey—ELFM Course or *Survey of the NT*, Paul N. Beware,
Through the Bible in One Year, Dr. Alan B. Stringfellow (in lieu of OT and NT Survey)

Church Dynamics:

Sheep, Goats and Wolves,

Leadership Development:

21 Laws of the Leader, John Maxwell

The Church in The New Testament, Kevin J. Conner

Electives:

A selection from the following books/courses may be prescribed depending on the applicant's stated calling and educational needs.

Biblical Theology:

Elements of a Christian Worldview, Dr. Mike Palmer

Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible, Myer Pearlman

What the Bible Says about the Holy Spirit, Stanley Horton

The Church in The New Testament, Kevin J. Conner

Pastoral Theology:

Firestorm—Preventing and Overcoming Church Conflicts, Ron Susek

Pastoral Counseling: The Basics, James Dittes

Church Administration: Creating Efficiency for Effective Ministry, Robert Welch

Reframing Organizations, Bolman and Deal

Church Planting:

Planting Churches in the Post-Modern Era, Ed Stetzer

Starting a New Church, Ralph Moore

Leadership Development:

Spiritual Leadership, Oswald Sanders

Transforming Leadership, Leighton Ford

Communications/ Preaching:

The Dynamic Communicators Workshop, Ken Davis

Preaching for Change, Rick Warren

Church Dynamics:

Cell Church Solutions, Joel Comiskey

Simple Church, Thom Rainer

The Purpose Driven Church, Rick Warren

Teen Ministries:

My First Two Years in Youth Ministry, Doug Fields

Youth Builder, Jim Burns

Reaching a Generation for Christ, Richard Dunn and Mark Senter

Postmodern Youth Ministry, Tony Jones

College Ministries:

Emerging Church, Dan Kimball

Everything Twenties, David Edwards and Margaret Feinberg

GOD'S SPECIFICATION SHEET FOR MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS

SCRIPTURE	QUALIFICATION	EXPLANATION
TITUS 1:5-9	Above reproach	Not open to censure, unimpeachable integrity.
	Husband of one wife	A one-wife kind of man -- no philanderer. (Does not rule out widowers or divorced persons)
	Having believing children	Children are Christians, not incorrigible or unruly.
	Not self-willed	Not arrogantly self-satisfied.
	Not quick-tempered	Not prone to anger, irascible.
	Not addicted to wine	Not to be drunken.
	Not pugnacious	Not contentious or quarrelsome.
	Not a money-lover	Not greedy for money.
	Hospitable	A stranger-lover, generous to guests.
	Lover of good	Loving goodness. Self-controlled, sane, temperate.
	Sensible	Unrealistic expectations of man.
	Just	Righteous, upright, aligned with right.
	Devout	Responsible in fulfilling moral obligations to God and man.
	Self-controlled	Restrained, under control. Committed to God's Word as authoritative.
	Holding fast the Word	Calling others to wholeness through teaching God's Word. Able to teach sound doctrine.
	Able to refute objections	Convicting those who contradict the truth.
	Temperate	Calm and collected in spirit, sober.
	Gentle	Fair, equitable, not insisting on his own rights.
1 TIM 3:1-7	Able to manage household	A good leader in his own family.
	Not a new convert	Not a new Christian.
	Well thought of by outsiders	A good representative of Christ among non-Christians.
	Willingly, not under compulsion	Not serving because he was talked into it against his will.
	According to God	By God's appointment.
1 Peter 5:1-4	Not for shameful gain	Not money-motivated.
	Not lording it over the flock	Not dominating in his area of ministry (a shepherd is to LEAD, not DRIVE the flock).
	As an example	One who is a pleasure to follow because he is an example of Christ.
	As accountable to the Chief Shepherd	There is a crown to be gained - authority to reign with Christ.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MINISTERS

1. Wear appropriate clothing (nothing provocative or disrespectful to God and others.
*When invited to speak outside of ELFM the standard protocol of dress shall be a dark suite with full collar and robe unless otherwise specified by the host pastor.
2. Have fresh smelling breath. (Keep “BREATH MINTS” with you).
3. Redisciple to always ask a person if they are a born again believer and can you pray with them.
4. Lead person to Christ by using the Romans Road.
5. Do not attempt to give pastoral counsel to an individual (that is not your purpose as a minister).
6. Don't give words of knowledge or prophesy over an individual.
7. We are interested in their salvation, and their healing. Leave this to the ordained Prophetess or Pastor.
8. Suggest a church for the individual to attend that is close to him/her if they chose not to join our church.
9. Beware of any demonic activity operating in the individual.
10. Do not attempt deliverance without the consent of the Pastor.
11. Pay close attention to the Pastor when she is ministering follow the instructions that are given (when they are given).
12. Maintain eye contact with person with a kind look on your face.
13. Pray with the individual as the spirit gives you utterance.
14. Expect God's anointing to accomplish the work.

Application for Licensure/Ordination - Declaration Addendum

I declare that the given information is true and correct and that there is no impediment to my credential being approved. I further declare that there is nothing undisclosed in my past that could, if exposed, become an embarrassment to the ELFM. I have never been convicted of an illegal activity that I have not revealed in this application. I do not hold any doctrines or beliefs that are contrary to the ELFM written Statement of Faith. I am not involved in any behavior unbecoming of a minister of the gospel or that would constitute cause for my ordination to be rescinded should that behavior be exposed.

I further declare that I will, with God's help, adhere to the requirements for ordination as set forth in ELFM Network's Ordination Requirements.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ELFM Sponsoring Member:
(Print) _____
Date: _____

ELFM Sponsoring Member: (signature) _____

If you or your sponsoring disciple is unable to sign this document in good faith please contact the ELFM offices to discuss your concerns.

The ELFM Board of Directors retains the right to remove any ELFM credentials if any of the above information proves to be false, misleading or materially inaccurate.

Please note that the ELFM considers all pastors to be independent contractors. The ELFM ordains pastors, but the pastors are legally responsible for their own actions. The ELFM is a voluntary association of pastors and does not assume responsibility for the actions of the pastor and has no control over the actions of network pastors. The ELFM believes in the sovereignty of each local church. Neither the Acts 2 Network, nor its officers and directors, assumes responsibility for matters that arise between pastors and their local churches, or matters that arise within the local churches. Ordination by the ELFM does not confer any right or privilege related to the performance of legal ceremonies (such as weddings) or to receive compensation or tax benefits for the performance of services.

Application for Ordination - Marriage Addendum

If you answered yes to questions 4b or 4c, please complete the following:

The following details relate to: ____ yourself ____ your spouse.

If both, or if multiple divorces are involved, please complete one addendum for yourself and one for your spouse and one for each divorce.

1. Did the divorce take place before your coming to faith in Christ? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, when? _____

2. If the divorce took place since your coming to Christ, was it on Scriptural grounds?

Yes ____ No ____

3. Please give a brief account of the divorce, stating the primary reason for the action. (If the divorce happened since your coming to Christ, describe the Scriptural grounds.)

Please answer, I will or I do to the questions listed below

1. Will you pray for the work of this church and it's ministry and outreach missions daily and encourage others to join you in praying that God will continue to bless the humanitarian work we are doing all over the world for the cause of Christ?
2. Do you believe that you are truly called by God, the Lord Jesus and HIS church to the ministry of Jesus Christ?
3. Will you accept the office of ministry entrusted to you by ordination by this church?
4. Will you as a minister of the gospel respect and be guided by the Biblical beliefs and practices of the First Church of The Gospel Ministry?
5. Do you believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of the living God and contain all things necessary for salvation?
6. Will you as a minister of the gospel be faithful in the study of these Scriptures so that you may have the mind of Christ?
7. Will you endeavor to minister so that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?
8. Will you undertake to be a faithful minister to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?
9. Will you do your utmost to pattern your life [and that of your family] in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example?
10. Will you persevere in prayer, both in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for yourself and for others, and offering your labors to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?

Whereas I have a call of God upon my life; whereas I submitted myself to be Taught, Trained, Equipped and have been activated in these gifts of the Holy Spirit needful to function(list them):

and have known my root/basic calling in this/these areas (Please tick X besides what applies here):

☐ The Five-fold office(s) of (CIRCLE ONE)

Apostle Prophet Evangelist Pastor Teacher

☐ The Supportive Ministry of (CIRCLE ONE)

Helps Compassion Administration Worship Others

☐ The Market Place Calling (CIRCLE ONE)

Business Public Service Professional Community Service

Cognizant of the fact that I willingly embrace the afore-mentioned call of God on my life, I willingly renounce every form of behavior or conduct which does not glorify the Lord Jesus Christ;

Because I receive LOVING ARMS WORLD MINISTRIES & APOSTOLIC COUNCIL OF CHURCHES/OPEN ARMS FAITH INT'L ASSEMBLY as a ministerial network and Association which I would like to relate with; Because I am willing to function as a disciple of the Fellowship and to uphold its tenets and ideals as received from God, I hereby apply to be ordained and credentialed by the Fellowship as a part of my release into ministry;

I commit to sincere, relationship with God and the saints in the Fellowship and submit myself to proper spiritual accountability concerning life and ministry. In so doing, I realize that the International Ministers Fellowship is at liberty to withdraw my membership and its credentials if my life and ministry is found to be reproachful to the name of the Lord or if I engage in actions which violate trust and accountability in the Fellowship.

Given under my hands, this _____ day of _____, 20____

Signed _____ Date _____

Attestation

Attested by: Any Minister of the gospel or disciple of the Fellowship who knows you:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Signed _____ Date _____

ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Affirmations and Declarations

Please Complete and Sign the Following

Affirmation of Doctrinal Essentials

It is by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, by the witness of the Holy Spirit, trusting in the inspiration and supremacy of the Holy Scriptures and with a confirming heart and mind that I affirm the Doctrinal Essentials of The Loving Arms Council of Churches. By my signature, as a faithful and accountable ministry leader and/or minister, I will endeavor with God's help, to live and teach in concord with the spirit and intention of the Doctrinal Essentials that I will be asked to reaffirm annually.

Signed _____ Date _____

Commitment to Purity

Before God, I pledge my commitment to a historical, traditional view of purity, as understood in the Historical Christian Church since the earliest of times. I reject the move of recent times where portions of Christendom have embraced and accepted lifestyles such as homosexuality, promiscuity, fornication, adultery, and incestuous relationships as Biblically acceptable or tolerable. I embrace the heterosexual view of marriage and sexual relationships as God designed and God ordained. I commit myself to purity of life and purity of expression in my sexuality; through fidelity in marriage, and abstinence in singleness.

Signed _____ Date _____

Affirmation and Blessing from your Spouse

By the signing of this document I am showing forth my support, affirmation, and blessing of my husband/wife (applicant's name) _____. Let it be known that my spouse has my full support and blessing in their decision to pursue ordination (or reception) in The Loving Arms Council of Churches.

Signed _____ Date _____

Certificate of Declaration

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

And in the Name of Jesus, Amen.

~ THE ONE HOLY UNIVERSAL AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH ~

I do solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation and to be the inspired Word of God. I do believe the teachings and doctrine of the Christian Apostolic Church as they come to us from the Ancient Historical Faith. I do solemnly purpose to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Christian Church as the LACC has received them.

Signed _____ Date _____

CHECK LIST

1. I have attached a statement of ministry experience.
2. I have attached ____ letters of recommendation (minimum of 3).
3. I have attached a statement explaining why I should be granted the above consideration.
4. I have enclosed all fees to cover the cost of this request
5. I have read and I understand the contents of ELFM publications on Obtaining a Ministerial License - Ordination - Commission - Appointment
6. I have enclosed a color photograph of myself (Unless on file at LAWM/LACC/OAFA)

AFFIRMATION

By signing below I affirm and acknowledge...

1. I will uphold the standards of the Holy Bible which is the only and true source of divinely written oracles of God.
2. I will be true to the Christian faith according to the Apostles' Doctrine.
3. I will be true to the calling in which our Lord God has entrusted me.
4. I will study to show myself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
5. I will endeavor to live a life before God and man that is exemplary of Christian service and duty and in keeping of the Apostles Doctrine.
6. I will endeavor to live a life that will not bring reproach to LOVING ARMS WORLD MINISTRIES AND APOSTOLIC COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, Inc. Nor to any of LAWM/LACC/OAFA's affiliated organizations.
7. I freely give permission to ELFM to conduct an Individual Background Check or other investigations as ELFM deems necessary and are according to the word of God.
8. The laws of all the sovereign States of USA shall apply
9. I will voluntarily surrender any certificate, license or ordination issued by ELFM if I violate any of the above affirmations.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and understanding. I have read the course catalog and understand the spiritual, academic, and financial requirements therein. I hereby make application to the Master's Commission Bible Institute without reservation.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This application must be completed and signed before it will be processed. Do not leave blank spaces.
(For ELFM use only)

Approved: _____ **Denied:** _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print name the way you want it to appear on the certificate

During the credentials service you will have assigned seating.

If married, should we reserve a seat for your spouse next to you: YES NO

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