

# LOVING ARMS WORLD MINISTRIES & APOSTOLIC COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OPEN ARMS INT'L FAITH ASSEMBLY

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## ORDINATION POLICY & PROCEDURES



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## LAWM/LACC/OAFA POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR ORDINATION

### **Introduction**

Ordination is the responsibility of the local church. The following LAWM/LACC/OAFA guidelines are 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 guidelines are designed to assist local churches to better fulfill their ordination responsibilities and to assist candidates in their preparation for the Ordination Council.

The purpose for licensing should be to recognize what God has already done. Too many people, on the contrary, have viewed the licensing process the same way they view any other profession. Many churches have licensing programs that make it nearly impossible for any of their members to qualify unless they hold a college degree.

Three simple rules to follow when considering a person for licensing are:

1. Are they called to do ministry in this church?
2. Are they faithful to the call that God has placed in their life?
3. Is the person humble?

Remember, it is God who calls and ordains and it is man who simply recognizes it. God has always called and ordained the least likely individuals to be recognized by man. He did it with Moses, Abraham, David, Samuel, Gideon, Paul and many others. So be careful that the program you choose to have for your church is not so restrictive or rigid that it fails to recognize the least likely, should God opt to do it that way in your church.

The Bible clearly states in Romans 13:1, 2 that we should obey the laws of the land. Romans 13:1-2-- 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).

We live in a country that recognizes the ministry as a profession. It places a lot of emphasis on the licensing or certification of many professions. Lawyers, doctors, nurses, certified public accountants, contractors, real estate agents, securities brokers and many more are given a lot of credibility because they hold a license. In the same way, the government, hospitals, the police department, schools and individuals have a respect for those who hold ministerial licenses. Let us look at 1 Corinthians 9:22. I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some (NKJV).

Paul understood the reasons why he became all things to all people. The following verse tells it all.

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

He did what he did for the sake of the gospel: it was so that the preaching of the gospel would not be impeded by man's regulations. In the same way, churches issue licenses to ministers so that the gospel would not be impeded. If the ministerial license is the only hindrance between you and an entire prison containing numerous men or women needing to hear the gospel, then for the sake of the gospel, get one. Many church pastors and leaders are willing to license the members of their churches for that very purpose.

## **I. Rationale for and Benefits of Credentialing**

The rationale for and benefits of credentialing are the following:

- A.** Recognition of God's calling to and gifting for vocational ministry,
- B.** Interdependency between the local church, the district and the national office, to ensure a commitment to and alignment of beliefs (Statement of Faith) and ethos,
- C.** Accountability to the local church and to the denomination, both doctrinally and morally,
- D.** Development educationally and personally, and
- E.** Confirmed legal status by the IRS (through LAWM/LACC).

## **II. Concept and Scope of Vocational Ministry in Scripture**

Scripture clearly teaches that each believer has been given a grace-gift(s) in order to serve our Lord and His Church (Ephesians 4:7). In addition, some believers have received the call of God upon their lives for vocational ministry and have been given a grace-gift(s) for the task of preparing God's people to carry out the works of service which build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11,12). It is those in vocational ministry whom God Himself has chosen and appointed, whom the local church affirms, and who are subsequently recognized by the LAWM/LACC/OAFA by the act of the laying on of hands (Acts 13:3, 1 Tim. 4:14, II Tim. 1:6).

## **III. Authority**

- A.** The ultimate authority over the credential is the LAWM/LACC, along with the Board of Ministerial Standards (BOMS) serving as the implementation authority on their behalf.
- B.** The Conference has given BOMS the responsibility of carrying out the policies, which is reflected in the structure.
- C.** Those credentialed in the LAWM/LACC/OAFA have been approved by a local fellowship church, a district council (DBOMS) and the National BOMS. An LAWM/LACC/OAFA credential is a denominational credential and is granted to candidates "in trust." This means the candidate is accountable to the LAWM/LACC/OAFA through the local church and the credential does not belong to the individual.

## **IV. Requirements for Ministerial Credentials**

- A.** General requirements for candidates serving LAWM/LACC/OAFA Church ministries to be credentialed under the LAWM/LACC/OAFA. A candidate must fulfill the following:
  - 1.** Must be a disciple in good Standards of a local LAWM/LACC/OAFA or fellowship church.
  - 2.** Must subscribe without mental reservation to the Statement of Faith of the LAWM/LACC/OAFA and agree to reaffirm that conviction every one, three, five, and ten years.
  - 3.** Must be engaged in a vocational or bi-vocational ministry that qualifies for a ministerial credential.
  - 4.** Must demonstrate a cooperative spirit with the purposes and policies of LAWM/LACC/OAFA and live a lifestyle consistent with biblical standards of Christian conduct.

5. Must be examined and approved by a DBOMS council or committee under the authority of the Board of Ministerial Standards (BOMS), who gives final approval.
6. Must complete a prescribed course of study on LAWM/LACC/OAFA Church history, theology and polity as directed by BOMS.
7. Must conform to LAWM/LACC/OAFA policy concerning persons with a divorce in their background.

**B. Requirements for individuals not serving under LAWM/LACC/OAFA ministries or fellowship.**

1. Those already credentialed in the LAWM/LACC/OAFA who move to non-LAWM/LACC/OAFA ministries and wish to retain their credentials must fulfill the following four requirements:
  - a) Discipleship in a local LAWM/LACC/OAFA church;
  - b) Accountability to the Local Church (or delegated district staff);
  - c) Annual written ministry report to the Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing (representing the Office of the President); and
  - d) Attendance at a district or national conference every other year.

Should they fail to do so, they will be requested to submit their credentials to the Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing.

2. While we do not normally offer credentials to those who are not serving in the LAWM/LACC/OAFA or a fellowship church, the BOMS may approve an exception from time to time. Individuals who are serving non-ordaining bodies (some local churches not associated with a denomination and fellowship church and ministries) may be granted credentials through the LAWM/LACC/OAFA upon meeting the “Requirements for Ministerial Credentials.” They must also fulfill the four requirements listed above (with the possible exception of discipleship/fellowship in a local LAWM/LACC/OAFA church for those serving in local church ministry).

**C. All definitions of language or interpretation of individual cases shall be solely delegated to BOMS.**

**D. Each credential is the property of the LAWM/LACC/OAFA and is given to the candidate “in trust.”**

**E. If one is no longer in a qualifying ministry, the credential must be returned to the Office of the President (OOP) to be placed “in trust for personal reasons.” If one deviates doctrinally from the Statement of Faith, the credential must be returned to the OOP to be placed “in trust” and depending on the determination of BOMS, could be listed as “in trust for disciplinary reasons.” If one experiences a moral failure, the credential must be returned to the OOP to be placed “in trust for disciplinary reasons.”**

**F. When a person in good Standards turns 65, the individual will be considered retired. This means the individual will no longer need to be in a qualifying ministry or reaffirm the Statement of Faith every five years. This person retains the credential for life unless there is doctrinal deviation from the SOF or moral failure.**

## V. Types of Ministerial Credentials

There are five types of credentials for ministry issued by the LAWM/LACC: Ministry License (Vocational), Certificate of Christian Ministry, Certificate of Ordination, Transfer of Ordination, and Ministry License (Non-Vocational).

In the credentialing process, there are four key matters ascertained of the candidate: calling, character, biblical/ theological (SOF) competency (according to the requirements for the appropriate credential), and pastoral capability.

Credentialing is an important way in which the LAWM/LACC/OAFA comes alongside local church leadership and helps with alignment, doctrinal fidelity, moral purity and accountability of their pastoral staff.

**A. Ministry License (Vocational).** This credential is designed for those involved in a qualifying ministry and who desire to be aligned with and accountable to the LAWM/LACC.

A ministry license may be issued to candidates who are involved in a qualifying ministry. The requirement is that the candidate has the appropriate theological under Standards of the Statement of Faith and alignment with the LAWM/LACC/OAFA. Being approved for a license grants the candidate all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of an LAWM/LACC/OAFA credential.

The license is the required credential for all pursuing further credentialing in the LAWM/LACC/OAFA. It is intended, first and foremost, for those directly involved in local church ministry of teaching and preaching the Word and, secondly, for those who are indirectly involved in the ministry of teaching and preaching the Word, who engage in a ministry that is supportive of the ministry of the Word.

In addition to pastoral ministries in the local church that are Word based and Word supporting in the local church (e.g., senior pastors, associate pastors, youth pastors, children's pastors, administrative pastors, pastors of music/worship, etc.), there are others that are also eligible to pursue a license engaged in ministries outside the local church: seminary professors, chaplains, church planters, missionaries [church planters or teachers], institutional ministries, fellowship church & ministries, etc.

A ministry license will be issued for five years and, thereafter, is renewable (five-year renewable). One is not required to pursue the Certificate of Christian Ministry or the Certificate of Ordination, but can renew the ministry license every five years, in conjunction with the five-year reaffirmation of the Statement of Faith.

The ministry license is also required prior to being granted a Certificate of Christian Ministry or the Certificate of Ordination, which can be pursued within the third year, or anytime thereafter. A ministry license is valid as long as the holder remains active in a qualifying ministry. If one is no longer in an LAWM/LACC/OAFA qualifying ministry, then the ministry license expires. Should this person re-enter the ministry at a later date, BOMS will request re-examination before returning the credential.

**B. Certificate of Christian Ministry (CCM).** This credential is designed for qualified individuals serving in local church ministry whose primary ministry is in support of teaching and preaching the Word. It is also fitting for some whose primary ministry is directly related to the ministry of preaching and teaching the Word. In addition to ministries in the local church that are Word supported and Word based (e.g., senior pastors, associate pastors, youth pastors, children’s pastors, administrative pastors, pastors of music/worship, etc.), there are others that are also eligible to pursue a CCM engaged in ministries outside the local church: seminary professors, chaplains, church planters, missionaries [church planters or teachers], institutional ministries, fellowship church & ministries, etc.

1. Requirements for Certificate of Christian Ministry: This credential may be issued to candidates who:

- a) Are involved in local church ministry, with some exceptions,
- b) Have been called and gifted for ministry, which has been recognized and affirmed by the local church,
- c) Are within the third year of having been granted a Ministry License, or anytime thereafter,
- d) Have attained the level of theological competency, whether through formal or non-formal means,
- e) Have been approved by a district council (DBOMS) and BOMS, and
- f) Have been publicly and corporately recognized in a church service, in which the service consists of laying on of hands and praying over by the leadership of the local church and or representative as the credential is presented to the candidate.

2. Preparation for Certificate of Christian Ministry: The candidate for this credential must have a Ministry License, and be within the third year of ministry after obtaining it, or anytime thereafter.

3. Tenure of Certificate of Christian Ministry: The Certificate of Christian Ministry is a bestowal of a trust upon those who are called by God to public ministry. This trust remains with the person as long as he/she continues in ministry and fulfills the standards of ministry as outlined in the pertinent sections above.

An individual who has a Certificate of Christian Ministry can pursue a Certificate of Ordination within the third year, or anytime thereafter, following the requirements for the Certificate of Ordination. If a person leaves an LAWM/LACC/OAFA ministry or an LAWM/LACC/OAFA church and transitions into a **non-LAWM/LACC/OAFA** ministry, the person may retain the LAWM/LACC/OAFA credential. Should the person leave vocational ministry or cease to be a disciple in good Standards of an LAWM/LACC/OAFA church, the certificate must be placed in trust with the LAWM/LACC/OAFA Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing (representing the Office of the President). Should this person re-enter the ministry at a later date, BOMS may request re-examination before returning the credential.

**C. Certificate of Ordination (COO).** This credential is designed for qualified males who serve in pastoral ministry in the local church whose primary ministry responsibility is preaching and teaching the Word (e.g., senior pastors, associate pastors, youth pastors, children’s pastors, pastors of music/worship, etc.). There are others that are also eligible to pursue a COO engaged in ministries outside the local church: seminary professors, chaplains, church planters, missionaries [church planters or teachers], institutional ministries, etc.

Ordination in the LAWM/LACC/OAFA was defined by the 1990 Conference in the following way: “Ordination in The Evangelical Free Church of America is the act of publicly setting a person apart for Christian ministry by prayer and the laying on of hands by others in ministry and the leadership of the local church; thus, recognizing God’s call upon his life; his gifts and training for ministry; his commitment to teach and preach the sacred Scriptures.”

1. Requirements for Certificate of License.
  - a) This credential may be issued to candidates who are involved in local church ministry, with some exceptions, have been called and gifted for ministry, which has been recognized and affirmed by the local church,
  - b) Are within the third year of having been completed Ministry Training, or anytime thereafter,
  - c) Have attained the level of theological proficiency, whether through formal or non-formal means,
  - d) Have been approved by a district council (DBOMS) and BOMS, and
  - e) Have been publicly and corporately recognized in a church service, in which the service consists of laying on of hands and praying over by the leadership of the local church or representative as the credential is presented to the candidate.
2. Preparation for License: The candidate for this credential must have an Ordination Certificate, and be within the third year of ministry after obtaining it, or anytime thereafter.
3. Tenure of License: The Ministry License is the bestowal of a trust upon those who are called by God to public ministry. This trust remains with the person as long as he continues in ministry and fulfills the standards of ministry as outlined in the pertinent sections above.

If a person leaves an LAWM/LACC/OAFA ministry or an LAWM/LACC/OAFA church and transitions into a **non-LAWM/LACC/OAFA** ministry, the person may retain the LAWM/LACC/OAFA credential. Should the person leave vocational ministry or cease to be a disciple in good Standards of an LAWM/LACC/OAFA church, the certificate must be placed in trust with the LAWM/LACC/OAFA Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing (representing the Office of the President). Should this person re-enter the ministry at a later date, BOMS may request re-examination before returning the credential.

**D. Transfer of License (TOL).** This credential is designed for qualified males who serve in pastoral ministry in the local church whose primary ministry responsibility is preaching and teaching the Word (e.g., senior pastors, associate pastors, youth pastors, children’s pastors, pastors of music/worship, etc.), and who have a valid Ordination from another ordaining denomination or local church.

Transferring one’s License to the LAWM/LACC/OAFA reflects an alignment with and a commitment to the LAWM/LACC/OAFA theology and ethos. It also puts one under the authority of and makes one accountable to the LAWM/LACC.



1. Requirements for Transfer of License: A candidate seeking a transfer of License to the LAWM/LACC/OAFA shall meet the “Requirements for Ministerial Credentials” (from the first page of this document). This credential may be issued to male candidates who
  - a) Are involved in local church ministry, with some exceptions,
  - b) Have been called and gifted for ministry, which has been recognized and affirmed by the local church,
  - c) Have been in ministry in the LAWM/LACC/OAFA one year,
  - d) Have attained the level of theological proficiency, whether through formal and/or non-formal means, and
  - e) Have been approved by a DBOMS council and BOMS.
2. Preparation for the Transfer of License: The candidate for this credential must have an ordination from another ordaining body or a local church, and be able to provide the written paper, minutes and council decision for his ordination. An LAWM/LACC/OAFA Ministry License is not a prerequisite.
3. Tenure of Transfer of License: The Transfer of License is the bestowal of a trust upon those who are called by God to public ministry. This trust remains with the person as long as he continues in ministry and fulfills the standards of ministry as outlined in the pertinent sections above.

If a person leaves an LAWM/LACC/OAFA ministry or an LAWM/LACC/OAFA church and transitions into a non-LAWM/LACC/OAFA ministry, the person may retain the LAWM/LACC/OAFA credential. Should the person leave the ministry or cease to be a disciple in good Standards of an LAWM/LACC/OAFA church, the certificate must be placed in trust with the LAWM/LACC/OAFA Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing (representing the Office of the President). Should this person re-enter the ministry at a later date, BOMS may request re-examination before returning the credential.

**E. Ministry Ordination (Non-Vocational).** This credential is designed specifically for those who are serving in a non-vocational ministry who require a credential to serve in that capacity (e.g., some chaplaincies, marketplace ministries, etc.). The candidate must meet the requirements set forth in “Requirements for Ministerial Credentials” (A., with the exception of 3, “must be engaged in a vocational or bi-vocational ministry”). The holder of this License may qualify for legal status to perform the ministries and functions of the pastor/teacher.

This license is valid for five years and is renewable for as long as the holder remains in active, non-vocational ministry. It does not lead to either the Certificate of Christian Ministry or the Certificate of Ordination. If a person with a ministry license serving in a non-vocational ministry transitions into a vocational ministry, BOMS may request re-examination before transitioning to the ministry license (vocational).

## **VI. Process, Policies, Procedures and Accountability**

- A. The specific process, policies and procedures pertaining to credentialing in the LAWM/LACC/OAFA will be determined and implemented by BOMS, under the authority of the Conference.
- B. A credentials update will be given to the delegates during regularly scheduled Conferences.

### **Review of the Ordination Process**

1. It is recommended the Council on Ministry be consulted regarding available ordination guidelines before the local church calls the candidate to examination.
2. Ordination candidate prepares his/her credentials.
3. Ordination Preparation Committee of the local church examines the credentials of the candidate to ensure the preparedness of the candidate for the Ordination Council.
4. 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 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 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.

## **Ordination Preparation Committee**

The Ordination Preparation Committee will be chosen by the local church. 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 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 an 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

### 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.

### Church Ministers

### 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 practice sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage or are unrepentant of sexually immoral behavior as defined by scripture.

### Accreditation and Sexual Conduct

LAWM/LACC/OAFA 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.

### Stages of Credentialing

- **License:** (This is issued conditionally) Authorizes you to operate in your gift under the Loving LAWM/LACC/OAFA banner.
- **Ordination:** (This is issued for life) Acknowledges and recognizes God's calling you to operate your gift in ministry.
- **Commission:** (This is issued conditionally and requires Discipleship in the fellowship). Approves you to fully operate (independently) with the full support and covering of the Loving Arms World Ministries & Apostolic Council of Churches banner.

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 LAWM/LACC/OAFA
- *Approve* this person for ministerial service under the auspices of the LAWM/LACC/OAFA
- *Provide* legal status in the exercise of that person's ministry

There are five types of credentials in the LAWM/LACC/OAFA:

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

Ordination is the rite by which people whom God has called to be ordained by the church or ministry which are set apart by prayer and the laying of the hands. It is the recognition of a particular calling from God and its acceptances by an individual. Ordination gives initial authorization to perform duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry or church.

The LOVING ARMS WORLD MINISTRIES AND APOSTOLIC COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (LAWM/LACC) ordination is carried out by our Apostolic Council in cooperation with the local church. We are a ministry that is anointed to be able to encourage, equip, empower, educate and engage by credentialing those who have heard the calling of the Lord.

The application and vetting process by design is restrictive whereas to ensure only persons demonstrating a true calling on their lives is commissioned. Thus, by implanting spiritual continued education and mentoring for those who are called and chosen to be ordained by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. LAWM/LACC/OAFA values a learned ministry. This usually means that licensed and/or ordained ministers have to continue a spiritual and educational development as they continue to grow as a Teachers, Pastors, Evangelists, Prophets, and Apostles. The Apostle Paul stressed education fully to his students Timothy and Titus, informing them on the level of spiritual knowledge in order to help uplift, encourage, educate, and empower others so they may spread the gospel.

## **Credentials offered by LAWM/LACC/OAFA**

Endorsement of an individual as an ordained minister takes serious consideration. Experience, biblical knowledge and maturity are expected of the candidate seeking this title.

Not everyone is at the experience, biblical knowledge and maturity level of an ordained minister and that is why we have several levels of ministry recognition designed to help people grow into full ordination status. One of these levels will fit you now and give your calling the opportunity to develop. It is important that you apply for ministerial credentials that fit your experience, biblical knowledge and maturity. This gives you the greatest possibility for successful development. LAWM/LACC/OAFA is a credentialing ministry; there are three primary credentialing options granted through LAWM/LACC/OAFA worldwide.

### **1. Licensed Lay Leader/Cell Group Leader (Bible Study/Spiritual Education) (Includes Ministry and Mission Workers)**

Definition:	A Lay Leader or Cell Group Leader, Christian Teacher, or Ministry Mission Worker credential is granted to a person who is active in an assistant or supportive role in the Gospel ministry. Examples of Christian workers are: Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, lay counselors or lay chaplains, personal evangelists, Mission workers etc.
General Requirements:	An applicant must be born-again, involved in a specific arena of ministry and have the written approval/recommendation of their servant leader.

### **2. Ordained and Licensed Ministers (Minsters & Elders)**

Definition:	An Ordained and Licensed Minister credential is granted to a person who is active in a gospel ministry. The license and ordination is granted to allow the individual to operate in and demonstrate their God-ordained ministry prior to commissioning. Examples of a gospel ministry are: evangelist, assistant/associate pastor, youth pastor, deacon, missionary, counselor, Bible study instructor, etc. A Licensed Minister has all the rights and privileges attending his/her calling in accordance with the laws of the state in which she/he resides and are under the covering of their local Pastor and Apostolic authority.
General Requirements:	An applicant must meet the requirements of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, have completed an acceptable educational program, and be currently active in the gospel ministry.

### 3. Commissioned Ministers (Teachers, Pastors, Evangelists, Prophets, and Apostles)

Definition:	Commissioned Minister credentials is granted to those who have a proven ministry, have demonstrated clear evidence of God's ordination and calling on their life and are active in a gospel ministry. A Commissioned Minister has all the rights and privileges attending his/her calling in accordance with the laws of the state in which she/he resides and is authorized to administer the rites of the church under the legal and Apostolic Covering of LOVING ARMS WORLD MINISTRIES and COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.
General Requirements:	An applicant must meet the requirements of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, have completed an acceptable educational program, be currently active in the gospel ministry, have previously held Licensed Minister credentials for a minimum of two years, and be at least 20 years of age.

## **LAWM/LACC/OAFA POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR ORDINATION**

### **Preamble**

We assume that ordination of clergy is good polity. With very few exceptions in its history the church has found it expedient to have a group of pastors set apart for its institutional welfare and the spiritual care of its people. The biblical precedents for ordination are found in the examples of God's call to special ministry among His people as priest, prophet, apostle and disciple.

### **Definition**

The practice of ordination comes from the term “laying on of hands to appoint to an office,” as in Acts 6, Titus 1:5, II Timothy 1:6, I Timothy 4:14.

While there are variations in the definitions of ordination from denomination to denomination, several common denominators seem to prevail:

1. It is an act of the local church for the whole church
  
2. It recognizes that the ordained person is especially gifted among the church's leaders to equip the saints by: (Ephesians Chapter 4)
  - a. Preaching and teaching the Word
  - b. Presiding at the ordinances
  - c. Shepherding
  - d. Administration
  
3. It is the church's public recognition and confirmation of God's call and gifting of a person for ministry in the act of the prayer, accompanied by the laying on of hands.
  
4. It carries with it society's legal and social recognition that a person has the professional functions of minister.
  
5. Ordination is a process by which the church, in the light of established norms and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, examines candidates to recognize and validate the call and gifts of God, acknowledges those who fulfill such expectations, and inducts them into the ranks of its clergy.



## **The Authority to Ordain**

Without exception the authority to ordain belongs to the local church. In ordination, however, each church should precede with careful regard for the concerns and expectations of her sister churches. That is why ordination policies and procedures are a matter for churches to espouse mutually.

1. Historically, denominational fellowship while seeking independence of established church or state authority, ministries were not independent of one another. They were strongly interdependent. The strength of denominational life was enormously important to early believers who needed strength and fellowship of other churches.
2. Churches today should not insist on the 'rights' of the local church in terms of ordination because if ordination were performed solely by the local church without the calling of an Apostolic Council, the minister would need to be re-ordained whenever he moved to another pastorate within the fellowship.

## **Candidates Examination**

Each candidate for ordination shall fulfill the following expectations:

1. Hold discipleship in the ordaining church.
2. Hold a formal call to ministry within the ordaining church, or the public recognition by that church of the candidate's call to some other form of Christian ministry.
3. Give a clear testimony of personal experience of conversion through faith in Jesus Christ.
4. Give a clear testimony of response to the inward call of God to the ministry of the church.
5. Give evidence of adequate preparation to fulfill that call.
6. Have attestation by the ordaining church as to the fruitful manifestation of his personality, character and spiritual gifts in ways edifying to that congregation.
7. Provide satisfactory demonstration of an emerging understanding of his leadership role, their personal and vocational goals, their philosophy of ministry and their place in the life of the church.
8. Provide a satisfactory demonstration of adequate levels of skill in the understanding and interpretation of the Bible, in the comprehension of general church doctrine and history, in the understanding of and adherence to the LAW/M/LACC/OAFA Doctrine, and in oral and written communication.

- a. Standards, as adopted by the LAWM/LACC, should be closely followed. The local church and the candidate for ordination should study Ordination of Ministers statement with extreme care before planning for the calling of an ordination council. As a matter of good conscience and consistency it would seem that the following statement on "Ethical Standards" would be given particular attention.
- b. "All ministers in the LAWM/LACC/OAFA should be convinced ministers who accept historic Five-Fold Ministry doctrine in all matters pertaining to church order and practice. Clergy coming from non-council backgrounds, and especially recent converts, are advised to take some recommended courses from LAWM/LACC/OAFA Minister's Course and complete certain prescribed required reading.

### **The Procedure for Ordination**

In order to accomplish the ordination of a candidate a church will normally proceed as follows:

1. A minimum of one full year of service as a minister or associate prior to request for full ordination.
2. The church board/council makes a formal decision to initiate ordination procedures on behalf of a specific candidate.
3. It is customary for the candidate to be referred to the Ordination Committee for a preliminary review of their preparation. The composition of this committee will consist of the Apostolic Council, the senior pastor/leader of the church that will be ordaining the candidate, two to three LAWM/LACC/OAFA pastors/leaders in good standing, and one or two elders/deacons from the ordaining church.
  - a. Upon completion of the candidate's preparation, an appointment is made with the Ordination Committee
  - b. The committee assists the candidate in refining their application and presentation and advises them on their fitness and readiness to be presented to the Apostolic Council.
  - c. On the basis of its findings the committee advises the ordaining church as to the apparent fitness and readiness of the candidate.
4. Upon receiving notice that the candidate appears fit and ready, the ordaining church, by congregational vote, calls an Ordination Council. An Ordination Council consists of clergy and lay delegates from a representative group of Conference Baptist churches.
  - a. Licensing of an individual follows Ordination usually after one year (no more than three) to satisfy the matter of recognized credentials e.g. weddings, funerals, IRS, etc.

5. The procedure for convening an Ordination Council is as follows:
  - A. At least four weeks prior to the date of the meeting of the council, the convening church shall send a written invitation to each church selected for participation, requesting that the pastor and two other delegates be sent. The convening church shall authorize three of its leaders to be delegates. The district office shall be notified and a representative invited.
    - i. Discretion should be used as to how far away one invites delegates. The invitations should be sent to the neighboring Conference churches, representatives from the LAWM/LACC, any Seminaries, or other schools the candidate has attended, pastors and laypersons who may have had a significant role or influence in the candidate's life.
    - ii. The letter of invitation would ask for the pastor and two other delegates. The same limitations would be given to any organization that would be represented, whether a school, para-church organization, even relatives that would be involved. Other guests would be acknowledged as guests or as honorary disciples of the council without voice or vote.
    - iii. All invited to the council and ordination service are guests of the church. Any invited speaker may receive an honorarium and expenses from the church. At the discretion of the church, expenses of the delegates may be considered. However, in most situations, delegates come at their own or their own church's expense as an encouragement to the fellowship.
  - B. Along with the invitation, the convening church shall send each invited church a set of written materials prepared by the candidate. Those written materials shall consist of:

The candidate's Testimony of Conversion

- I. The candidate's call to the ministry
  - II. Statement of Faith
  - III. Philosophy of Pastoral Leadership
  - IV. Candidate's Completed Application
- C. The convening church, responding to suggestions from the Pre-Ordination Committee, shall invite someone from one of the anticipated council churches to serve as a Chairman of the Council, shall provide that person with the opportunity to adequately prepare himself for leadership of the council, and shall nominate that person to be elected chairman by the assembled delegates. The convening church shall also invite and nominate someone to serve as Clerk of the Council.

D. The District office will use its resources to encourage participation by the invited churches. It is expected that invited conference pastors assume their responsibility to be present together with delegates from their churches.

7. The procedure for conducting an Ordination Council is as follows:

A. Opening activities shall be led by the chairman of the convening church and should include congregational singing, a prayer of invocation, a Bible reading and a welcome to delegates and guests. The church chairman shall also introduce the candidate.

B. The church chairman shall organize the council by:

- i. Calling for the reading of the church minutes authorizing the council.
- ii. Calling for the reading of the report/recommendation of Ministerial Guidance Committee.
- iii. Nominating the convening church's candidates for the offices of Chairman and Clerk of the Council.
- iv. Conducting the election of the chairman and clerk and installing same.

C. The chairman of the council shall conduct the business of the council by:

- i. Validating the credentials of the delegates.
- ii. Having the council's delegates recognize and seat other appropriate people as official delegates (i.e. LAWM/LACC/OAFA representatives).
- iii. Reminding the delegates of the nature and procedure of the task and that the council's decision shall not be predisposed by announced plans for an Ordination Service.
- iv. iv. Presenting the candidate so that the council has opportunity to determine how he fulfills the norms for ordination.
- v. Providing opportunity for the candidate to present his statements:
  - a. Their conversion and call to ministry
  - b. Doctrinal Statement
  - c. Philosophy of Ministry
  - d. Completed application

- vi. Providing opportunity for the council to ask questions of the candidate for clarification of the views expressed or experiences described.
- vii. Eliciting appropriate attestation by the convening church as to the fruitful manifestation of the candidate's personality, character, and spiritual gifts in ways edifying to that congregation.
- viii. Conducting a closed session in which the council shall determine the candidate's fitness and readiness for ordination.
  - a) If the council is not satisfied, the church would be advised to withhold or postpone ordination until certain remedial steps are completed to the satisfaction of representatives designated by the council.
  - b) If the motion is affirmative, but the council feels there are areas of weakness, a separate motion to encourage the candidate to do further study may be made. (It may be done privately.) This motion should be shared with the candidate along with the motion to ordain but should not be shared at the ordination service.
- ix. Informing the candidate of the decision of the council, making appropriate comments and affirmations.
- x. Instructing the clerk to provide the convening church with the minutes of the council. The minutes shall include information as to the composition and leadership of the council and a verbatim record of the council's actions. Recommendations for media announcements can be made.
- xi. Adjourning and dissolving the council.
  - a. The chairman of the convening church concludes the meeting of the council with appropriate words of gratitude and leads in prayer. He may also announce plans for the service or ordination. Ideally, to enhance the involvement of the local church, there are many good reasons to hold the ceremony on a later date. However, for expediency, it may also be held the same day as the council to take advantage of the impact of guests already present.

8. The procedure for conducting a service of ordination is as follows:

- a. An ordination service is a complete expression of worship and praise to God, including singing, prayers, Bible readings, a sermon, and exhortations to both the ordaining church and the candidate.

- b. The specific act of ordination involves the following elements:
  - i. The affirmation of ordination vows by the candidate  
(See Sample Script in Appendix)
  - ii. The laying-on-of-hands by Deacons/Elders, ordained pastors, and other appropriate persons.
  - iii. The prayer of ordination.
  - iv. Charge to the Church and Charge to the Ordained
  - v. The presentation of the Certificate of Ordination to the ordained.

### **The Continuation of Ordained Status**

1. When an ordained person accepts the call of another church, the responsibility for supervision of his ordination is transferred to that church within 90 days. When an ordained person accepts a call to form a ministry that does not in itself provide for church discipleship, the church of which the ordained is a disciple shall be responsible for the supervision of their ordination.
2. When an ordained person does not have a call from the church of which they are a disciple and the church of which they are a disciple does not recognize the validity of their call to some other form of ministry, their ordination should be considered inactive and terminated.
3. If the minister holding ordination from a LAW/M/LACC/OAFA church moves to another group, denomination or fellowship, his ordination papers in the LAW/M/LACC/OAFA will be considered inactive and terminated.
4. Ordained persons who become disabled or who enter full vocational retirement shall continue with full recognition of their ordained status.
5. Ordination may be revoked only by the church of which the ordained is a disciple. Should such action be necessary, due to the neglect, abuse, or failure to uphold ethical and of their calling or some serious deviation from sound doctrine and godly conduct, the following steps are suggested to the church in which he is serving.
  - a. No action should be taken without first:
    - i. Following proper guidelines within the churches own constitution and by-laws (which ought to include provisions for minister-church relations)
    - ii. Consulting with its Board of Ministry Standards (BOMS)
  - b. Some offenses are of such a character that no delay is advised or necessary, but usually the act of being deposed from office and subsequent revocation of ordination would be preceded by suspension from that office.

- c. Revocation shall be done only after serious deliberation requiring the consent of a council made up of delegates from sister churches. Revocation requires a vote by the church.
  - d. Written notification of this action should go to LAWM/LACC/OAFA headquarters, all District Executive Ministers, and the individual involved.
  - e. Suspended ministers who are proven not guilty should receive public exoneration in their church.
  - f. A deposed minister should not be re-instated unless he gives sufficient evidence of genuine repentance.
    - i. The judgment as to whether a deposed minister shall be subsequently re-instated should be made by the church that desires to call him, together with the concurring advice of denominational leaders
    - ii. Upon acceptance of a call, the deposed minister's ordination should be re-instated.
6. Ordination may be renounced voluntarily. Such renunciation shall require that the ordained declare such desire to the church board and that the Certificate of Ordination be given to be destroyed. The church shall vote to recognize such a renunciation.

### **The Validation of Ordained Status**

- 1. Since these policies and procedures assume that the call of a church is fundamental to ordination, it is expected that in the process of issuing a call, each church shall satisfy itself of the validity of the ordination of the candidate being called. The issuance of a call in and of itself validates previous ordination.
- 2. When a church issues a call to a person ordained in another denomination, it is appropriate for that church to call a council "to review his ordination." The purpose for such a council is to confirm the fact that this person fulfills these norms for ordination.
- 3. When a church issues a call to a person with an inactive LAWM/LACC/OAFA ordination, such a call activates the pastor's previous ordination.

## **Ordination Guidance Committee**

### **Constituents:**

LAWM/LACC/OAFA Member (when possible) and three pastors from the area of the candidate's ministry. One from each of the following: BOMS, Church Planting, and/or Ministry Resource Committees.

### **Purpose:**

1. To review, discuss and make suggestions to the candidate relative to his written statement on their:
  - a. Conversion and call to ministry
  - b. Doctrine
  - c. Philosophy of ministry
  - d. Application & Background Checks
2. To advise the candidate and the church as to his apparent readiness for ordination.
3. To assist the candidate and the church in making preparation for the Ordination Council and the Ordination Service.

### **Agenda:**

1. Prayer for guidance in counseling the candidate and the church.
2. Discuss with the candidate his view of the meaning of ordination.
  - a. Degree or diploma?
  - b. Covenant with the church?
  - c. Recognition of God's call to ministry?
  - d. Rite of initiation?
3. Review and discuss with the candidate his views on "the continuation of the ordained status". (See LAWM/LACC/OAFA Policy & Procedures for Ordination)
4. Review the candidate's written statement on his "Conversion and Call to Ministry". Make any appropriate suggestions for improvement.



5. Review the written "Doctrine" statement. Make suggestions for improvement or clarification.
6. Review the written "Philosophy of Ministry" statement. Discuss and make any appropriate suggestions.
7. Remind the candidate to keep his written statement personal, brief (not more than 12 pages) and understandable to lay people.
8. Formulate recommendations to:
  - a. The candidate as it relates to his personal preparation.
  - b. To the ordaining church as to the propriety of proceeding to call an Ordination Council. (Some disciple of the committee should be designated to write this letter.)
9. Procure from the candidate the name and address of the person who should receive this letter from the Ordination Guidance Committee.
10. Arrangements:
  - a. The dates and times of the Ordination Council and service should be sent to the LAWM/LACC/OAFA office as soon as they are determined.
  - b. Review the "LAWM/LACC/OAFA Policy and Procedures for Ordination" with the candidate as it relates to arrangements to be made by the local church.
  - c. Have a prepared list of newspapers, magazines, etc. together with addresses for the council clerk for publicity purposes.
  - d. Certificate of Ordination will be provided by the district office well in advance of the council so that special printing can be ready for the Council Officers.
  - e. Prepare a table, chair, and writing materials for council's clerk.
  - f. Plans should be made to provide meal for the Ordination Council.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR WRITING A STATEMENT OF FAITH IN PREPARATION FOR ORDINATION**

#### **Purpose:**

1. The paper is given as a public declaration of what you believe regarding the classic theological tenets of the evangelical Christian faith.
2. It should, therefore, be your own work, in your own words, with quotations from theological sources at a minimum.
3. The paper should present positively what you basically believe, generally avoiding statements about what you do not believe.
4. In addition to presenting your theological understandings of the faith, the paper should demonstrate your ability to communicate in clear, concise thought patterns, words, and style.

#### **Suggested Areas to be Covered:**

1. Your statement should treat major theological themes, i.e.: God, scripture, man, sin, Christology, salvation, the church, eschatology, the Holy Spirit, and the Christian life. You should develop each of these doctrines as they grow naturally out of your present theological understanding. However, you should bear in mind the traditional approaches and, while expressing them in the categories of your own experience, seek to establish continuity with the experience of your readers (a part of whom will be an ordaining council).
2. Whenever relevant, your statement should reflect your knowledge of the biblical expression of the particular doctrine, its historical development, and its contemporary synthesis. The examples provided below should give you an insight:
  - a. On the doctrine of God:
    - i. Without ignoring the traditional forms, you should attempt to express doctrine in categories which will be understandable to the listener in your congregation today. How do you present the "form" of God to man today? What is the meaning of concepts such as "transcendence" and "immanence" for today's understanding of the world in which we live? Who is the God whom you communicate to modern man?

b. On the doctrine of man:

- i. You should seek to incorporate in your statement the following concepts: What is the biblical understanding of man? Who is man as a **soteriological** creature in the twentieth century? How does man stand today as the "imaged God" (image of God)? What are the ethical dimensions of man-ness?

c. On the doctrine of the church:

- i. Demonstrate the theological significance for today of the biblical metaphors for the church (body of Christ, habitation of God, etc.) How does the church relate to the Kingdom of God? How is the church related to contemporary society? What is the significance of the church for eschatology, etc.?
3. Before you begin to write each of the separate doctrines, outline the areas you intend to include, develop the procedure for treating these areas, and then ask yourself the question: Does this show my knowledge of the biblical and historical data and does it relate to the man of today?

## **Format**

1. The statement should be ten to twelve pages in length, double spaced. (College Level APA Format)
2. Pay attention to literary style, grammar, and spelling.
3. Use headings, subheadings, and page numbers for easy reference during the questioning period. Break down by paragraph. Use thesis-like margins.
4. Since we Baptists are 'people of the Book," use Scripture. Not more than an average of one quoted reference should be used in support of any given point or statement. (Additional references may be used but only by giving location of chapter and verse.)
5. Disciple that two-thirds of a given ordination council are laymen, some with little theological sophistication. Prepare to communicate to them too!

## APPENDIX B

### Sample Letter Calling an Ordination Council

LAWM Fellowship Church  
1234 High Street  
Anywhere, IL 12345

Dear Saints,

Our church is requesting you to send your pastor and two other delegates to sit in council with us to consider the propriety of ordaining our minister, \_\_\_John \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_Jones\_\_\_\_\_ to the work of the Gospel ministry.

The Council will meet in XXX our church facility on XXX, November 11, 2015 at XXX

To facilitate the organization of this ordination council, please complete the enclosed credentials, and please mail or send them with your delegates.

You will also find enclosed three copies of the written material prepared by the candidate so that all of your delegates may have time to carefully read it prior to the meeting of the council.

A meal will be served following the completion of the council's work.

By order of the church,

---

Church clerk/secretary

Enclosures:

1. Credentials for your delegates and an enclosed self-addressed envelope.
2. Written material prepared by the candidate for ordination.

## APPENDIX C

### Sample Credentials

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of church calling Ordination Council)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Address of church)

\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Friends,

Our church is happy to respond to your request to send our Pastor and two delegates to sit in council with you to consider the matter of ordaining your pastor.

Our delegates to the council will be:

1. Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

By order of the church,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church clerk/secretary

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Suggested Ordination Council Procedures**

The Church Chairman or Vice Chairman shall organize the Council by:

1. Having congregational singing
2. Leading in opening prayer
3. Reading (or having read) appropriate Scripture
4. Welcoming delegates and guests
5. Calling for the church clerk to read the church minutes authorizing the council
6. Calling for the reading of the report/recommendation of the Ministerial Guidance Committee
7. Nominating the convening church's candidates for the office of "chairman" and "clerk" of the council
8. Conducting the election of the chairman and the clerk and turning the council over to the newly elected officials.

The elected Chairman of the Council shall conduct the business of the Council by:

1. Working with the clerk to validate credentials and announce the names and churches of all official delegates.
2. Having the council's delegates recognize and seat other appropriate people as official delegates (i.e. LAWM/LACC/OAFA representation.)
3. Reminding the delegates of the nature and the procedure of the task and that the council's decision shall not be predisposed by announced plans for an ordination service.
4. Presenting the candidate so that the council has opportunity to determine how he fulfills the norms for ordination.

5. Providing opportunity for the candidate to present his statements on:
  - a. His conversion and call to ministry
  - b. Doctrinal Statement
  - c. Philosophy of Ministry
  - d. Ordination Application
6. Provide opportunity for the council to ask questions of the candidate for clarification of the views expressed or experiences described.
7. Eliciting appropriate attestation by the convening church as to the fruitful manifestation of the candidate's personality, character, and spiritual gifts in ways edifying to that congregation.
8. Conducting a closed session in which the council shall determine the candidate's fitness and readiness for ordination
  - a. If the council is not satisfied, the church would be advised to withhold or postpone ordination until certain remedial steps are completed to the satisfaction of representatives designated by the council.
  - b. If the motion is affirmative, but the council feels there are areas of weakness, a separate motion to encourage the candidate to do further study may be made. (It may be done privately.) This motion would be shared with the candidate along with the motion to ordain, but should not be shared at the ordination service.
9. Informing the candidate of the decision of the council, making appropriate comments and affirmations.
10. Instructing the clerk to provide the convening church with the minutes of the council. The Minutes shall include information as to the composition and leadership of the council and a verbatim record of the council's actions. Recommendations for media announcements can be made.
11. Adjourning and dissolving the council.

\* A meal should be provided for the delegates following the conclusion of their work.

## APPENDIX E

### Sample Ordination/Installation Script

#### Order of Service

Invocation

Processional Order: Host Pastor, Designates, LAWM/LACC/OAFA Ministers, Guest Pastors and Ministers (in clergy) and the Presiding Apostle/Bishop

Worship in Song (HOST CHURCH CHOIR)  
Host Pastor's Remarks & Welcome

Old Testament Scripture Reading  
Deuteronomy 18:5

New Testament Scripture Reading  
Ephesians 4:11-16

Worship in Song

Worship in Giving

Worship in Dance

Worship in Song

The Preached Word  
(Usually Presiding Apostle/Bishop)

The Pastoral Commissioning

The Adornment of Vestments

Prayer for the Nations/Call to Discipleship (Designate)

Closing Remarks

Benediction

\*\*\*light snacks will be served following the service\*\*\*



## Assignments

MC/Worship Leader:

Vestment Presenter:

Designate:

Greeters:

Ushers: (No Less than 4)

Vestment Handlers: (Total of 8)

Award and Acknowledgment Presentation:

Adjutant(s): (No Less than 2)

Consecrators: (No Less than 3)

## OPENING DECLARATION

“SCRIPT”

WORSHIP LEADER

ORDINATION IS RECOGNITION AND CONFIRMATION OF GOD’S CALL UPON AN INDIVIDUAL FOR MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL. INSTALLATION IS THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF A CERTAIN ROLE WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST AND DOES NOT CONFER SPECIAL SPIRITUAL POWER OR AUTHORITY. AS JEREMIAH HEARD GOD SAY, "BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB I KNEW YOU, AND BEFORE YOU WERE BORN I CONSECRATED YOU. . ." AND AS ISAIAH HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE ASKING, "WHOM SHALL I SEND AND WHO WILL GO FOR US. . ." AND AS THE DISCIPLES HEARD JESUS CALL OUT, "COME, FOLLOW ME.

WE HAVE GATHERED HERE BY THE GUIDANCE OF GOD, BY THE BECKONING OF CHRIST, BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO CELEBRATE GOD'S CALL TO US AS GOD'S PEOPLE. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON US, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED US TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE OPPRESSED; AND TO BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED; AND TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RELEASE TO THE PRISONERS. GOD HAS PROCLAIMED US SERVANTS OF THE LORD, MINISTERS OF OUR GOD.

TODAY WE GREATLY REJOICE IN THE LORD, FOR AS THE EARTH BRINGS FORTH ITS SHOOTS, SO THE LORD GOD WILL CAUSE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PRAISE TO SPRING UP BEFORE ALL THE NATIONS.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** AS SERVANTS OF JESUS CHRIST WE ARE EACH CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES, BUT IN ADDITION TO THIS GENERAL CALLING SOME ARE CALLED TO THE CHURCH'S SPECIAL OFFICES. WE ARE GATHERED TODAY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CALL OF NAME OF CANDIDATE TO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH, AND ON BEHALF OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD TO SET HIM APART FOR THIS MINISTRY OFFICE THROUGH PRAYER AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS. WE INVITE ALL WHO ARE GATHERED HERE TO JOIN IN THIS CELEBRATION.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** (PRAYER) "WORTHY ARE YOU, O GOD, TO RECEIVE GLORY, HONOR, AND POWER. WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST AND A DWELLING OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT. WE PRAISE YOU THAT THROUGH THAT SAME SPIRIT YOU HAVE CALLED **NAME OF CANDIDATE** INTO YOUR SERVICE AS A PASTOR AND GIVEN HIM GIFTS FITTING FOR SUCH SERVICE. ESPECIALLY WE PRAISE YOU FOR THIS MAN OF GOD, WHOM WE ARE TO SET APART AND COMMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOSPEL AS PASTOR. GRANT THAT THIS MAY BE FOR HIM AND FOR US A SPECIAL TIME OF JOY, AND MAY YOUR GRACE BE WITH HIM THIS DAY AND THROUGH ALL THE YEARS OF HIS MINISTRY. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP & **(NAME OF LEADER)** I CERTIFY THAT **NAME OF CANDIDATE** HAS COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY LOVING ARMS OUTREACH MINISTRIES AND OUR GOVERNING BODY. HE HAS RECEIVED THE PASTOR'S COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION. I HAVE THE JOY OF PRESENTING THIS MAN OF GOD TO THIS CONGREGATION FOR COMMISSIONING TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY OFFICE OF PASTOR.

## SCRIPTURE

THE LORD HAS GIVEN APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS, AND TEACHERS, FOR THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS, FOR THE WORK OF GOD'S KINGDOM. EPH. 4: 11-16; 1 COR. 12: 12-28

THE LORD HATH CHOSEN THIS WOMAN TO MINISTER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, DEUT. 18: 5. MEN SHALL CALL YOU THE MINISTERS OF OUR GOD, ISA. 61: 6. THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO, BUT TO MINISTER, MATT. 20: 26-28. I HAVE APPEARED TO MAKE THEE A MINISTER AND A WITNESS, ACTS 26: 16-18. GOD IS NOT UNRIGHTEOUS TO FORGET YOUR LABOR OF LOVE IN THAT YE HAVE MINISTERED TO THE SAINTS, HEB. 6: 10. IF ANY MAN MINISTER, LET HIM DO IT AS OF THE ABILITY WHICH GOD GIVETH, 1 PET. 4: 10-11.

MANY OF THE NT PASSAGES DEALING WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELDERS, PASTORS, OVERSEERS, AND BISHOPS:

ACTS: 6:1-6; 11:28-30; 14:23; 15:1-7; 15:20-23; 15:28; 16:4; 20:17-21; 20:28-31; 20:35; 21:17-25. ROMANS: 12:8. 1 CORINTHIANS: 3:1-11; 4:1-2. 1 THESSALONIANS: 5:12-13, 1 TIMOTHY: 1:18-19; 3:1-7; 4:7; 4:12-5:22; 6:10-14; 6:20. 2 TIMOTHY: 2:15; 4:1-2, TITUS: 1:5-9; 2:1; 2:7; 2:15-3:2; 3:10. HEBREWS: 13:7; 13:17; 13:24. JAMES 5:14, AND 1 PETER 5:1-5.

## VOW OF COMMISSION

**WORSHIP LEADER:** BEFORE GOD AND THIS FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES YOU ARE CALLED UPON TO ANSWER IN ALL TRUTHFULNESS THE QUESTIONS I NOW ASK YOU.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE TRULY CALLED TO BE A PASTOR IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST AND WITH THE HELP OF GOD TO SERVE FAITHFULLY IN THE FULFILLMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS OFFICE?

**DESIGNATE:** “YES, I DO, GOD BEING MY HELPER.”

**WORSHIP LEADER:** DO YOU PROMISE TO BE FAITHFUL IN PRAYER AND IN THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURES AND THROUGH STUDY TO DEEPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF DIVINE TRUTH AND HUMAN EXPERIENCE?

**DESIGNATE:** “YES, I DO, GOD BEING MY HELPER.”

**WORSHIP LEADER:** WILL YOU SEEK TO BRING OTHERS INTO AN ACCEPTANCE OF THE COST AND JOY OF DISCIPLESHIP, AND THROUGH FAITHFUL TEACHING LEAD THEM INTO A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTIAN COMMITMENT?

**DESIGNATE:** “YES, I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.”

**WORSHIP LEADER:** WILL YOU HAVE A LOVING CONCERN FOR ALL PEOPLE AND GIVE YOURSELF TO MINISTER IMPARTIALLY TO THEM WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, CREED, GENDER, OR LIFESTYLE?

**DESIGNATE:** “YES, I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.”

**WORSHIP LEADER:** WILL YOU ENDEAVOR TO UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF THE CHURCH AND TO SEEK THAT UNITY IN WHICH THE BODY OF CHRIST WILL MANIFEST ITSELF AS ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, AND ONE BAPTISM?

**DESIGNATE:** “YES, I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.”

**WORSHIP LEADER:** WILL YOU GIVE YOURSELF TO THE APOSTOLIC UNIVERSAL CHURCH IN WHICH YOU ARE BEING COMMISSIONED AND IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE SERVE ITS CAUSES AND SEEK TO ENLARGE ITS WITNESS AT HOME AND ABROAD?

**DESIGNATE:** “YES, I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.”

## THE POURING OF OIL AND THE LAYING OF HANDS

**WORSHIP LEADER:** PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP, YOU HAVE HEARD THE COMMITMENT MADE BY THE ELECT. WHAT SAY YOU?

**PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP:** HE IS WORTHY! IN THE NAME OF CHRIST AND RELYING ON GOD'S GRACE, LET US COMMISSION HIM!

**WORSHIP LEADER:** THEN LET US ACKNOWLEDGE AND CONFIRM THIS COMMISSION BY THE POURING OF OIL AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS IN PRAYER.

THE ADJUTANTS WILL COVER THE DESIGNATE WITH THE PLASTIC LONG COVERING.

THE DESIGNATE WILL KNEEL. WORSHIP LEADER WILL INSTRUCT ANY ORDAINED PASTORS PRESENCE TO SHARE IN THE POURING OF OIL AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS.

A YOUTH MEMBER OF THE CHURCH WILL BRING PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP THE CRAFT OF OIL.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** (DURING THE POURING OF THE OIL)

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES THE CHURCH HAS THROUGH THE SYMBOLIC ACT OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER RECOGNIZED GOD'S CALL TO MINISTRY AND BY THIS ACT SET APART MEN AND WOMEN FOR SPECIAL COMMISSIONED OFFICES OF THE CHURCH. ALSO FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS 29:7 "TAKE THE ANOINTING OIL AND ANOINT HIM BY POURING IT ON HIS HEAD." (PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP & PASTOR CONLEY WILL TAKE THE CRAFT AND POUR THE ANOINTING OIL ONTO THE PASTOR'S HEAD WHEN COMPLETED THE PASTORS WILL JOIN IN THE LAYING OF HANDS)

**WORSHIP LEADER:** (AFTER 3 MINS) LET US PRAY. ETERNAL GOD, YOU HAVE CALLED THIS MAN INTO THE SPECIAL OFFICE OF YOUR CHURCH. CONFIRM THAT CALL BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AS WITH PRAYER, THE POURING OF OIL AND THE LAYING OF HANDS WE COMMISSION THIS MAN OF GOD, **NAME OF CANDIDATE** TO THE OFFICE AND WORK OF PASTOR. GRANT HIM WISDOM TO UNDERSTAND AND GRANT HIM THE POWER TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS AND TO LEAD YOUR PEOPLE IN WORTHY WORSHIP.

GIVE HIM GRACE TO BE A SHEPPARD TO THE FLOCK OF THE CHURCH WHOSE LOVE IS LIKE YOUR OWN, A TEACHIM WHOSE STORE OF TRUTH BRINGS LIGHT AND UNDERSTANDING, AND A PASTOR WHO REVEALS YOUR PRESENCE TO EVERY BROTHER OR SISTER IN NEED.

KEEP HIM FAITHFUL TO YOUR HIGH CALLING THAT IN YOUR GOOD TIME HE MAY HEAR YOUR WORDS, "WELL DONE, MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT." IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND IN JESUS' NAME.

## ADORNMENT OF VESTMENTS

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** TO THIS OFFICE WE CONSECRATE THIS PASTOR AND OURSELVES, THAT TO YOU MAY BE GIVEN THE PRAISE AND GLORY, NOW AND FOREVER. IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT AND IN THE NAME OF JESUS, AMEN.

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP, APOSTLES, THE PRESBYTERY, CLERGY, AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT COMMISSION, THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES, AND THE SAINTS OF GOD, TRUSTING IN THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, INSTALL THIS MAN OF GOD, PASTOR KEVIN T. STRAWDER. WE THEREFORE ASK YOU, TO AFFIRM HIM IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT A PASTOR IN THE ONE HOLY UNIVERSAL APOSTOLIC CHURCH. DR. PHIFER WILL NOW OFFER A VOW OF LABOR TO THE LORD.

**DESIGNATE:** (STANDING FRONT OF THE PULPIT FROM KNEELING POSITION) “I OFFER THESE HANDS AND MY LIFE FOR THE SERVICE OF GOD. IN GOD’S WORK I CONSECRATE THESE HANDS AND MY LIFE TO THE SERVICE OF GOD AND TO THE SERVICE OF THE MINISTRY THAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED INTO OUR CARE.”

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** BROTHERS & SISTERS THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU! YOU HAVE HEARD THE TESTIMONY THAT NAME OF CANDIDATE HAS BEEN DUALY AND LAWFULLY BEEN APPOINTED AND DESIGNATED TO BE A PASTOR IN THE CHURCH OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST AND TO SERVE THE CONGREGATION PLACED UNDER HIM CHARGE. YOU HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF HIM SUITABILITY, AND THE CHURCH HAS APPROVED OF HIM SACRED RESPONSIBILITY. NEVERTHELESS, IF THERE IS ANYONE THAT MAY KNOW OF ANY REASON WE SHOULD NOT PROCEED, LET IT BE NOW KNOWN. \*\*\*AFTER 10 SECONDS\*\* (SINCE THERE ARE NONE!)

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** IS IT THE WILL OF THE CHURCH THAT WE AFFIRM NAME OF CANDIDATE TO THE OFFICE OF PASTOR?

**PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP:** YES, AS IT IS GOD’S WILL! THE PASTOR IS BLESSED!

THE ADJUTANT WILL REMOVE THE PLASTIC COVERING FROM THE DESIGNATE AND TOWEL HIM DOWN REMOVING REMAINS OF THE ANOINTING OIL.

**DESIGNATE:** WILL REMAIN FACING THE CHURCH BODY FOR THE ADORNMENT OF VESTMENTS.

THE DESIGNEE’S SPOUSE AND FAMILY WILL JOIN PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP AND THE HOST PASTOR AND WILL ASSIST IN THE ADORNMENT OF VESTMENTS.

MEMBER'S OF THE DESIGNATE'S MINISTRY (CHILDREN/YOUTH PREFERRED) CARRIES EACH VESTMENT DOWN THE CENTER AISLE AND WILL PRESENT EACH TO PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP AND HOST PASTOR WHO WILL ADORNS THE DESIGNATE.

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** THE PASTORAL COLLAR

THE PASTORAL COLLAR WILL NOW BE PLACED ON THE PASTOR AND REPRESENTS THE CLERGY. AS PASTOR HE IS DISCIPLINED AND HAS DEVELOPED A SENSE OF SEPARATION BETWEEN HERSELF AND THE SECULAR WORLD. IT IS AN OUTWARD SYMBOL OF HIM PURE HEART AND LOVE FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST THIS IS A PASTOR'S DISTINCTIVE FORMAL CLERICAL DRESS.

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** THE PASTORAL CASSOCK

THE PASTORAL CASSOCK WILL NOW BE PLACED ON THE PASTOR ACCOMPANIED BY THESE WORDS "THIS LONG, CLOSE-FITTING CLERICAL ROBE WITH 33 BUTTONS DOWN THE FRONT REPRESENTS THE 33 YEARS OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST AND THE MINISTRY HE HAS ENTRUSTED TO US..."

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** THE CINCTURE

THE CINCTURE IS NOW PLACED AROUND THE WAIST OF THE PASTOR. THE FIRST PIECE OF ARMOR PAUL MENTIONS IN EPHESIANS 6:14 IS "THE BELT OF TRUTH". THIS CINCTURE IS A REMINDER TO ALWAYS SPEAK THE TRUTH THAT JESUS IS LORD.

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** THE BIBLE

A BIBLE IS GIVEN AND OPENED TO THE GOSPELS OF MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN IS BEING PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE PASTOR WITH THESE WORDS. "RECEIVE THESE HOLY SCRIPTURES. FEED THE FLOCK OF CHRIST ADMITTED TO YOUR CHARGE. GUARD THEM AND DEFEND THEM WITH YOUR LIFE IN HIS TRUTH AND BE A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF HIS HOLY WORD AND DECREES."

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** THE CROSS

A CROSS IS GIVEN WITH THESE WORDS. "RECEIVE THIS CROSS AS A SIGN OF OUR LORD'S TRIUMPH AND BANNER OF OUR SALVATION. BE ONE WITH THE APOSTLES IN PROCLAIMING CHRIST'S RESURRECTION AND HIM SOVEREIGNTY AS LORD AND SAVIOR."

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** THE KEYS

KEYS TO THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE PASTOR ACCOMPANIED BY THESE WORDS. "RECEIVE THESE KEYS AS A SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY. GUARD THE FAITH AND PROMOTE UNITY AMONG THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST'S APOSTOLIC CHURCH.



**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** THE ROCK

THE ROCK IS GIVEN WITH THESE WORDS... “UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.”

**VESTMENT PRESENTER:** THE STAFF

A STAFF IS PRESENTED ACCOMPANIED WITH THESE WORDS. RECEIVE THIS STAFF AS A SIGN OF THE SHEPPARD’S OFFICE, BEING ALL THINGS A FAITHFUL PASTOR. A WHOLESOME EXAMPLE TO THE FLOCK OF CHRIST. THE BASE OF THE STAFF IS USED TO FIGHT OFF THE WOLVES THAT COME TO KILL, STEAL, AND DESTROY THE SHEEPFOLD. THE HOOK IS TO BE USED BY THE PASTOR TO DRAW THE WAYWARD SAINTS AND TO RETRIEVE THE STRAYS. THE KNOB (THE ROUND PART) IS TO ENCOURAGE THE PASTOR TO BE STEADFAST AND UNMOVABLE WHILE ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD. THIS IS BEST USED TO HOLD THE PASTOR STEADY WHEN THE JOURNEY BECOMES WEARY.

### **COMMISSIONING DECLARATION**

**PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP:** BY THE AUTHORITY OF THIS MINISTRY AND OUR FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES AND IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WE DECLARE AND COMMISSION AND INSTALL NAME OF CANDIDATE TO THE OFFICE AND WORK OF PASTOR. THROUGH THIS ACT HE HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED TO LEAD THE NATIONS, PREACH TO THE NATIONS, AND TEACH NATIONS, THE WORD OF GOD, TO LEAD THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH AND ADMINISTER THE ORDINANCES AND DOCTRINE AND TO PERFORM THOSE OTHER SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMISSION OF PASTOR.

MOST IMPORTANTLY YOU ARE TO BE A FAITHFUL TEACHER, PASTOR, EVANGELIST, PROPHET, AND APOSTLE TO THE PEOPLE, TO INFORM THE CONSCIENCE OF THE COALITION AND FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES CONCERNING THE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES OF THE DAY, AND TO BE A WITNESS TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT COME TO KNOW FOR THEMSELVES THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST.

I DECLARE AND DECREE ON THIS DAY **DATE HERE** IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT AND IN THE NAME OF JESUS, AMEN.

## **COMMISSION TO THE CHURCH**

### ***1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13 (NIV)***

12 NOW WE ASK YOU, BROTHERS, TO RESPECT THOSE WHO WORK HARD AMONG YOU, WHO ARE OVER YOU IN THE LORD AND WHO ADMONISH YOU. 13 HOLD THEM IN THE HIGHEST REGARD IN LOVE BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK. LIVE IN PEACE WITH EACH OTHER.

## **COMMISSION TO THE MINISTER**

### ***1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7 (NIV)***

1 HERE IS A TRUSTWORTHY SAYING: IF ANYONE SETS HIS HEART ON BEING AN OVERSEER, HE DESIRES A NOBLE TASK. 2 NOW THE OVERSEER MUST BE ABOVE REPROACH, THE HUSBAND OF BUT ONE WIFE, TEMPERATE, SELF-CONTROLLED, RESPECTABLE, HOSPITABLE, ABLE TO TEACH, 3 NOT GIVEN TO DRUNKENNESS, NOT VIOLENT BUT GENTLE, NOT QUARRELSOME, NOT A LOVER OF MONEY. 4 HE MUST MANAGE HIS OWN FAMILY WELL AND SEE THAT HIS CHILDREN OBEY HIM WITH PROPER RESPECT. 5 (IF ANYONE DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO MANAGE HIS OWN FAMILY, HOW CAN HE TAKE CARE OF GOD'S CHURCH?) 6 HE MUST NOT BE A RECENT CONVERT, OR HE MAY BECOME CONCEITED AND FALL UNDER THE SAME JUDGMENT AS THE DEVIL. 7 HE MUST ALSO HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION WITH OUTSIDERS, SO THAT HE WILL NOT FALL INTO DISGRACE AND INTO THE DEVIL'S TRAP.

## **PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES**

**PRESIDING APOSTLE/BISHOP:** THESE CERTIFICATES ARE PRESENTED WITH THESE WORDS “MAY THIS CERTIFICATE AND COMMISSIONING LETTER AND APPOINTMENT BE A CONTINUAL REMINDER TO YOU THAT ON THIS DAY AND IN THIS PLACE YOU WERE SET APART FOR THE HIGH AND HOLY OFFICE OF PASTOR.

(EACH CERTIFICATE IS READ AND CREST PRESENTED)

THE CHILDREN/CHOIR WILL NOW ENTER WITH THE WORLD'S FLAG WITH THE SONG “**SELECTION HERE**” PLAYING AND THE CHOIRS SINGING.

*Bishop Michael L. Hargett, Sr., PhD*  
*LOVING ARMS OUTREACH MINISTRIES*  
*ORDINATION OF ELDERS SERVICE SCRIPT*  
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## **APPENDIX F**

### **Additional Ordination Vows**

Moved by your love for God and a sincere desire to proclaim the gospel of His Son among men, are you now ready to take upon you this holy ministry and faithfully serve in it?

(I am ready, the Lord being my helper)

Will you tend the flock of Christ committed to your care, taking the oversight thereof not by constraint but willingly, not for worldly gain but that men may be made free in Him?

(I will, the Lord being my helper)

Will you faithfully administer the ordinances in purity; preach the Word of the everlasting God; proclaim the gospel of Christ; lead disciples into the presence of God and his healing Spirit; minister to them in the truth of God as contained in the Holy Scriptures; guide them in the way of life which is Christ, that they may be found in Him and be claimed for service in His kingdom?

(I shall so endeavor, the Lord being my helper)

Do you promise to be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Scriptures, and in such studies and devotions as will increase your knowledge of God and His kingdom?

(I do so promise)

Will you endeavor in the strength and grace of Jesus Christ our Lord to live a life of sincere discipleship; to be loyal to the call of duty; and to faithfully discharge all the work of the ministry entrusted to you?

(I shall so endeavor, the Lord being my helper)

Do you accept the faith and order of the LAW/M/LACC/OAFA and promise to be loyal to this fellowship that it may be more and more a fruitful branch of the church universal; and while cherishing brotherly love toward all the faithful followers of Christ everywhere, do you engage to labor earnestly that the purity, peace and strength of this, your chosen church, may be increased?

(I do so engage)

From: A Manual of Pastoral Problems and Procedures, Lloyd M. Perry and Edward J. Lias (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1967) pg. 10.

## APPENDIX G

### Certificates Issued by LAWM/LACC/OAFA

1. Certificate of License
2. Certificate of Ordination
3. Certificate of Consecration & Commission
4. Certificate of Appointment
5. Certificate of Installation

### Sample of Documents & Declarations

#### 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 member 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 LAWM/LACC/OAFA to send delegates to said council.*

***LAWM/LACC/OAFA Minister's License Card***



**Loving Arms World Ministries & Apostolic Council of Churches  
Minister's License**

This is to certify that (NAME OF MINISTER), having been set apart and ordained, is hereby licensed to perform all Christian rites and sacraments of the Apostolic Church as long as (he/she) preaches the Gospel and adheres to the established doctrine of the Holy Scriptures as held by this synod under whose authority holds jurisdiction and administration of this license.

As a legally licensed vicar of the Gospel, you are authorized under the Loving Arms Council of Churches to officiate and conduct all Sacraments, Rites, and Ordinances as recorded in the New Testament and to pray for and counsel the sick and afflicted and to perform all functions which by law and Christian Customs constitutes the responsibilities of a minister as needed anywhere in the World under the covering of the Loving Arms World Ministries and Council of Churches.

(Name of Minister) shall exercise the privileges and rights of (his/her) gifts through this license and office commensurate and shall hold this license as long as his life adorns the gospel of Jesus Christ and (he/she) remains an active member of this council of churches.

Commissioning Certificate

# Loving Arms Council of Churches



Under Authority of the Loving Arms Council of Churches this Ecclesiastical Certificate of Commission is issued by the Most Reverend

**Apostle Michael L. Hargett, Sr. PhD**

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and in the Name of Jesus, Amen

To all the faithful in Christ Jesus, throughout the world, Greetings:

Be it known through this presentation and acting in accordance with the Canons and Ordinances by this assembly of the

**One, Holy Universal and Apostolic Church**

With the full faith of God's Word and Holy Scripture: Ephesians Chapter Four: Verses Eleven through Sixteen

We the Apostolic Body of Loving Arms Council of Churches by Commission of the Most Reverend Apostle Michael L. Hargett, Sr. PhD, before a Congregation Assembled in the Loving Arms Outreach Ministries Church in the city of Zion, Illinois in the course of the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of Christ, and by the Laying of Hands, the Invocation of the Living Holy Spirit, and with the solemn intent to do the Father's will does in conferring Sanctified Orders, did then and there, rightly and duly Commission to the Sacred Episcopate, sub conditione, our beloved brother in Christ,

**NAME HERE**

Is hereby duly appointed and enthroned as a Pastor in the Loving Arms Council of Churches of whose pious, sober and honest life and conversation, We have been assured of his having voluntarily and freely affirmed to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship Protocols of the ministry under whose authority we hold our jurisdiction; which this consecration was ratified and confirmed by the Loving Arms Apostolic Council of the Synod, subject to the Canons and Ordinances of this Ministry.

Whereas the Pastor shall exercise the rights and privileges of this Commission with the doctrine and policy of this synod as long as life adorns him and the Gospel of Jesus Christ lives in him and remains licensed under the Loving Arms Council of Churches. In this Commission, and Apostolic Council assisted by the Most Reverend First Lady Cheryl Hargett, Apostle Charles R. Freeman, Apostle Dr. Jerry Herron, Apostle Gregory Schroeder, Apostle Dr. David Bolton, Apostle Dr. Jerry Stewart, and Apostle Candis Hall-Merritt.

Our prayers accompany you, as you are endowed with the Heavens' sublime dignity and authority the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Until all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: and that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

In Testimony Whereof, We have affixed hereunto our signatures and seal the church given on the Seventeenth Day of June in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Fourteen, A.D.

& in the Fifth year of my Consecration.

Zion, Illinois 60099

Apostle Michael L. Hargett, Sr. PhD  
Loving Arms Council of Churches  
Zion, Illinois 60099

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION LETTER GROUP NUMBER LACC-06172014  
THESE CREDENTIALS ARE ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE LOVING ARMS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES PURSUANT TO THE POWERS INITIALLY GRANTED TO A DULY ORGANIZED RELIGIOUS BODY AS RECOGNIZED IN 805 ILCS 110/ RELIGIOUS CORPORATION ACT - ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SPRINGFIELD, IL; AND BY VIRTUE OF THE STATUS OF THIS CHURCH AND SYNOD AS RECOGNIZED IN OUR RECORDED BYLAWS, AND THE SAID PERSON TO WHOM THESE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONING LETTER IS ISSUED AND, WHOSE NAME IS WRITTEN ABOVE, IS 60

## License of Ministry Certificate

### Loving Arms Apostolic Council of Churches License of Ministry

By this presentation shall all know that His Eminence  
Apostle Michael L. Hargett, Sr. PhD  
Servant Leader and Presiding Prelate of  
The Loving Arms Apostolic Council of Churches

With the Apostolic Petrine authority by the laying of hands hereby license, consecrate and affirms

**Name Here**

To a sacred office in the Lord's Holy Church He has been called and anointed by God and by the authority of this  
Apostolic Council in accordance with the prescribed tenets of faith and by law  
We hereby Consecrate and License as

**Gift Here**

The Apostle of Evangelism is a licensed and acts as an authorized vicar of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and as a legally ordained minister of the Gospel, is set apart to preach, train, and send out ministers, plant churches, oversee and conduct the work of local ministries; to officiate all Sacraments, Rites, and Ordinances as recorded in the New Testament; to pray for and counsel the sick and afflicted, and Commission Gifts of the Five Fold Ministry in the Holy Universal and Apostolic Church, as needed anywhere in the world and to perform all functions which by law and Christian Customs constitutes the responsibilities of an Apostle. As such, he is answerable only to God.

The (Name of Gift/Office) shall exercise the privileges and rights of the gifts of the fivefold through this office commensurate with the doctrine and policy of this ministry and shall hold this office as long as their life adorns the gospel of Jesus Christ and retains this license under The Loving Arms World Ministries and Council of Churches.

(Ephesians 4:11-13) <sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: <sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Through the apostolic succession passed down from the Apostle Peter and the other Apostles, and for the purpose of service within the body of Christ. This responsibility to the people of God has been conferred upon you in recognition of your faithful dedication to Jesus' mission and life message and as a result of a call from God to prepare God's people for the work of the ministry for the edification of Christ and His church. As the governing Apostolic Council of your commission; we pledge to uphold you and your family as you serve the body of Christ in the sacerdotal functions of this ministry. We therefore by the laying of hands upon you have consecrated your commissioning and affirmed the authority and responsibility given to you by God to provide Apostolic Leadership to the his people placed in your charge. Our prayers accompany you, as you are endowed with heaven's sublime dignity, and authority, work to lead souls into the kingdom of God. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus. Amen.

In Testimony Whereof, We have affixed hereunto our signatures and seal the church  
Commissioned & Given Under our Hands  
On this Seventeenth Day of June,  
In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Fourteen A.D.

Apostle Dr. Greg Schroeder  
Fullness of Christ Evangelistic Church

Apostle Michael L. Hargett, Sr. PhD  
Loving Arms Council of Churches

## CERTIFICATE IF APPOINTMENT

### LOVING ARMS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

His Eminence Apostle Michael L. Hargett, Sr. Servant Leader and Presiding Prelate, The Loving Arms Outreach Apostolic Council with the Apostolic Petrine authority by the laying of hands hereby consecrate and affirm (NAME HERE) to the sacred office of Apostle in the Lord's Holy Church. Passing all lines of Apostolic Succession as an APOSTLE to

(NAME HERE)  
(TITLE HERE)

Commissioned In the  
LOVING ARMS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(His/Her) Eminence, the Apostle of (TITLE HERE), As a legally authorized vicar of the Gospel, is hereby set apart to preach, train, and send out ministers, plant churches, and oversee the work of local ministries; to officiate all Sacraments, Rites, and Ordinances as recorded in the New Testament; to pray for and counsel the sick and afflicted, and Commission Gifts of the Five Fold in the Holy Universal and Apostolic Church, as needed anywhere in the World. and to perform all functions which by law and Christian Customs constitutes the responsibilities of an Apostle. (His/Her) Eminence, (NAME HERE) is answerable only to God.

(His/Her) Eminence, (NAME) shall exercise the privileges and rights of his gifts through this office commensurate with the doctrine and policy of this ministry and shall hold this office as long as their life adorns the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This Appointed Commission given under our hands

On this \_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_  
In the year of our Lord 2014 A.D.

Apostle Michael L. Hargett, Sr. PhD  
LOVING ARMS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



## CERTIFICATE OF APOSTOLIC CONSECRATION

LOVING ARMS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

By this presentation shall all saints know that:

**NAME**

Has been called and anointed by God. Under the hand of the Servant Leader and by the authority of this Apostolic Council in accordance with the prescribed tenets of faith and by law is hereby Commissioned under the Loving Arms World Ministries & Apostolic Council of Churches as an

APOSTLE to the **(NAME HERE)**

And as a legally authorized minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **(he/she)** is hereby consecrated by this synod for

1. Perfecting of the Saints; 2. Work of the Ministry; 3. Edification of Christ and 4. For Unity of the Faith in Jesus Christ.

(Ephesians 4:11-17)

Whereas, the above named is Commissioned by this synod to preach, teach, train and send out ministers, plant churches and oversee the work of local ministries; to officiate all Sacraments, Rites, and Ordinances as recorded in the New Testament; to pray for and counsel the sick and the afflicted; and to perform all other functions which law and the Christian Custom constitutes the responsibilities of an Apostle.

Given Under our Hands

Date

Apostolic Council Signatures

## CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

LOVING ARMS APOSTOLIC COUNCIL

Hereby Consecrate & Ordain

**NAME**

In the sacred office of **(NAME HERE)** of **(TITLE HERE)** in the Lord's Holy Church.

**NAME** responded to the Devine call of Christian ministry to fulfill and exercise the work of the Kingdom of God through His son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After careful consideration, fasting, and prayer of the moral character, soundness of doctrine, and leadership qualifications of **NAME**, the Loving Arms Council of Churches now charge this servant of God for the work of the ministry.

**Ephesians 4:11-13** “<sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: <sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...”

Affirmed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Fourteen

Apostolic Council Signatures

## CERTIFICATE OF INSTALLATION

LOVING ARMS APOSTOLIC COUNCIL

Solemnly and publically recognizes the calling of

**NAME**

We affirm that almighty God uses **NAME** for the up building of the church and the furthering of the Kingdom of God. Having fully proven **(himself/herself)** worthy of ministry, and having voluntary and freely affirmed to conform to the Doctrine of the Holy Word and Protocols of the Loving Arms World Ministries & Council of Churches, under whose authority we hold our jurisdiction, we hereby install **(him/her)** as

**TEACHER/PASTOR/EVANGELIST/PROPHET OR APOSTLE OF (NAME HERE)**

**Through the apostolic succession passed down from the Apostle Peter and the other Apostles,** and for the purpose of service within the body of Christ. This responsibility to the people of God has been conferred upon **(NAME HERE)** in recognition of faithful dedication to Jesus' mission and life message and as a result of a call from God to prepare the people for the work of the ministry in the edification of Christ.

We pledge to uphold **(him/her)** and **(his/her)** family as (he/she) serves the body of Christ in the sacerdotal functions of this ministry. We therefore the laying of hands upon **(him/her)** recognizing the commissioning, and affirming the authority and responsibility given by God to provide Apostolic Leadership from this 17 Day of June in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen.

Apostolic Council Signatures  
(Minimum of 4 Required for Apostles under LACC)

## **MINISTRY LICENSE AND CARD**

### **LOVING ARMS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MINISTRY LICENSE I.D. CARD**

This is to certify that (NAME OF MINISTER), having been set apart and ordained, is hereby licensed to perform all Christian rites and sacraments of the Apostolic Church as long as (he/she) preaches the Gospel and adheres to the established doctrine of the Holy Scriptures as held by this synod under whose authority holds jurisdiction and administration of this license.

As a legally licensed vicar of the Gospel, you are authorized under the Loving Arms Council of Churches to officiate and conduct all Sacraments, Rites, and Ordinances as recorded in the New Testament and to pray for and counsel the sick and afflicted and to perform all functions which by law and Christian Customs constitutes the responsibilities of a minister as needed anywhere in the World under the covering of the Loving Arms World Ministries and Council of Churches.

(Name of Minister) shall exercise the privileges and rights of (his/her) gifts through this license and office commensurate and shall hold this license as long as his life adorns the gospel of Jesus Christ and (he/she) remains an active member of this council of churches.

Apostolic Council Signatures

**CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT CHURCH and MINISTER  
LOVING ARMS WORLD MINISTRIES & COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**INDEPENDENT AFFILIATE CHURCH CHARTER**

Known by all saints present,  
Having demonstrated dedication to the study and teaching of the holy Christian Bible  
and promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this Independent Affiliate Church and  
Minister Charter shall be granted to:

(TITLE/GIFT AND NAME HERE)

For

(NAME OF MINISTRY/CHURCH HERE)

On this day the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July in the year of Our Lord 2015  
Granted with all the rights, privileges and benefits as an affiliate of  
The Loving Arms World Ministries and Council of Churches in accord with  
this independent Affiliate Church and Minister Charter.

Matthew 28:19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”  
and in Jesus’ name Amen!

Apostolic Council Signatures

## CONTINUING EDUCATION RECORD

KEY: RIGHT AC01 RIGHT ADAM C 3 STARR LANE FOXBURY MO	DISTRICT 077 NO 01 05 08 09  16	CATEGORY DESCRIPTION ADMINISTRATION EVANGELISM PASTORAL CARE PERSONAL & DEVOTIONAL DEVEOPMENT  TOTAL OF ALL CATEGORIES	NUMBER COURSES	CEU CREDITS	CERTIFICATES
		<b>SAMPLE</b>	5	4.5	0
			2	2.0	0
			7	6.5	0

  

COURSE NUMBER	DESRIPTION	SYLLABUS MAILED	CEU CREDITS	CARD MAILED	CERTIFICATE USED	AMT
8-071-002	PRE & MARRIAGE COUNSELING	0/00/00	1.0	01/13/98		.0
9-299-002	PALCON II	0/00/00	2.0	06/01/98		.0
8-999-095	INT'L CONF. OF POLICE CHAPLAINS	0/00/00	1.0	04/21/97		.0
8-999-087	THE POLICE CITIZENS ACADEMY	0/00/00	4.0	10/03/87		.0

This certifies that  
***Adam Right***  
 has been awarded 2 unit(s) of CEU credit.  
 Course: Palcon II  
 Date: 4/3/98

**SAMPLE**

*John W. ...*  
 Pastoral Ministries Director

Pastoral Ministries \* Church of the Nazarene \* 6401 The Paseo \* Kansas City, MO 64131

## **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 LAWM/LACC/OAFA and the local church. A copy should be sent to the LACC so that it will be on file when accreditation by LAWM/LACC/OAFA is sought. A Certificate of Ordination should be provided to the ordained. A blank certificate is available from the Director of Pastoral Services of the LAWM/LACC. It states:

### **Certificate of Ordination**

*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, \_\_\_\_\_ was consecrated to the Christian ministry by the LOVING ARMS WORLD MINISTRIES & APOSTOLIC COUNCIL OF CHURCHES on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ [Year].*