

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- All applicants for ministry must have the baptism in the Holy Ghost.
- All ministers shall adhere to the teachings and doctrines as set forth by the International General Assembly of the Church of God.
- All ministers are required to pay tithes to retain their license.
- All applicants for ministry shall serve as exhorters before making application for ordained minister certificate, except ordained ministers coming from other reputable organizations, licensed ministers of music, and ministers of Christian education.
- All applicants for the ministry should be actively engaged in ministry before being recommended for credentialed ministry.
- All applicants for the ministry, including those advancing in rank, must give consent to the state/regional office to conduct criminal background checks.

Resources

- www.newjerseycog.org
- www.cogdoe.org
- www.ministerialtraining.org

Applications

To obtain an application contact your local pastor or NJ COG State Office

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Below are the guidelines for every rank of advancement in the ministerial credentialing process.

- Secure application for interested level of credentialing from the State Office.
- All questions must be answered completely or application will be considered incomplete.
- Completed application must be reviewed and signed by the candidate's pastor and district overseer.
- Completed application must be returned to the State Office with a \$150 processing fee at each rank of credentialing.
- When the application is received, and reviewed by the State Office, a criminal background check will be processed.
- If the candidate has multiple marriages; or, if there are concerns about the criminal background check, the candidate will be asked to submit explanation during a ministerial credentialing interview (i.e. Initial Interview).
- After the application and required courses have been satisfactorily completed and processed, the candidate must be set forth by the local congregation in a business conference. The State Office will supply the Local Church Endorsement form.
- The candidate must secure the study guide from the Division of Education and successfully complete the examination for the particular rank of ministry being pursued.
- After testing, the application and all other documents will be forwarded to the International Offices where they will be reviewed and the certificate issued. This may take several weeks. Should the candidate (or spouse) have previous marriages this will require additional time.



Ministerial Credentialing Process



New Jersey Church of God Executive Office

Ministerial Credentialing Secretary

147 Lower Main St.

997 PO Box

Matawan, New Jersey 07747

Email: credentials@newjerseycog.org

Phone: (732) 765-8080 Ext: 405

New Jersey Church of God

Ministerial Licensure Procedures



MOBILIZE:



- Mobilize is a mentoring program that establishes a relationship between pastor and members. It is a pastor's tool for motivating and training members for spiritual leadership and ministry together. Mobilize provides curriculum to enable the pastor to lead participants in a half-day seminar once a month for one year.
- In Level One: The Foundation (six months), the pastor guides participants in becoming workers for Christ through two, three-month series of studies focusing on leadership skills and character formation.
- In Level Two: The Ministry Plan (six months), individuals choose, in consultation with the pastor, a specialization area of ministry that they personally desire to establish in their church. Level Two studies are divided into two, three-month sections focusing on ministry foundation and principles as well as ministry skills and practices.
- Specializations include twelve areas of ministry covering a wide array of ministries within the local church.

CALLING AND MINISTRIES STUDIES (CAMS):



- Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS) helps the applicants determine if they are called to clergy ministry, as well as providing knowledge about ministry. The desire is to help applicants develop the abilities to fulfill their divine call and place of ministry.
- There are four sessions in CAMS—seminars and individual study.
- These seminars, which are attended by both the applicant and their spouse, provide tools to enable the applicant to determine if they are called to clergy ministry. The seminars also offer an explanation of ministry.
- The individual study for applicants include conducting personal devotions, completing three training courses, and writing papers about their calling and understanding of ministry.
- The spouse will also attend the seminars and write papers about their own personal calling and understanding of ministry.

MINISTERIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (MIP):



- The purpose of the MIP is to provide ministerial preparation by practical training on the local-church level, academic self- study, and monthly training seminars, focusing on vital topics for spiritual leadership and effectiveness.
- The MIP is required in order to advance from exhorter rank to the status of ordained minister.
- The MIP is comprised of three parts - studies on the Bible, doctrine, and leadership; a supervised practicum with a pastor; and eight monthly seminars.
- The assignments of MIP candidates to supervising pastors are made on the basis of personal training needs, geographical factors, and availability. The seminars complement and add to the experience of the supervised practicum.
- In an effort to broaden the ministerial training experience, specializations in ministries will be offered in the MIP for various ministry focus areas.