



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

South Carolina District Council Assemblies of God Preliminary Application for Credentials

Steps to complete:

Once the educational course requirements are satisfied, a first time applicant must apprise his or her Assemblies of God pastor of the desire to be credentialed with the South Carolina District Council.

Payment of a non-refundable fee of **\$90** is required to process the **Preliminary Application** to pay for all related fees and other costs for a thorough background and credit check. The Official Application requires an additional fee of \$100 if the Preliminary Application is approved for processing.

Please be aware that a criminal background check and a credit check are done for every candidate upon receiving the *Preliminary Application*. Credit issues are best resolved before the official application process begins. Outstanding credit issues (collection accounts, liens) must be resolved before processing may continue.

If a potential applicant or spouse has a previous marriage ending in divorce, please refer to the General Council's Bylaws for qualifications for credentials before initiating the process through a preliminary application.

After this is done, he or she should do the following:

1. Complete the **Preliminary Application Form** (leave no required blank spaces empty)
2. Complete each of the **Authorization Forms** and have notarized where needed
3. Obtain your pastor's signature for the Preliminary Application Form
4. Attach a copy of your transcript showing completion of educational requirements
5. Call your Sectional Presbyter and schedule an interview
6. **Take your signed pre-application, transcript, authorization forms, copies of both your social security card and driver's license with you to meet with your presbyter**
7. Upon completion of the interview, your presbyter will forward your Preliminary Application and Authorization Forms, the copies of your driver's license and social security card along with your non-refundable *preliminary application fee* of \$90 to cover expenses and related processing fees (*make check payable to South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, or SCDAG*) to the SC AG District Office.
8. Upon approval of the Preliminary Application, the Official Application Packet will be mailed to you from the District Council office.

12. If the answer to question 12 is yes, please provide an explanation on a separate sheet of paper. Include any relevant court documents.

13. Do you have a former spouse still living? Yes No

If you answered 'yes' to either – please discuss with your presbyter and indicate the appropriate application needed

- Recognition of Divorce Due to Abandonment of the Believer by the Unbeliever
- Recognition of Divorce Due to Domestic Violence
- Recognition of Divorce Due to Ecclesiastical Annulment
- Recognition of a Pre-Conversion Divorce
- Recognition of Divorce Due to Spousal Infidelity

14. Does your spouse have a former spouse still living? Yes No

If you answered 'yes' to either – please discuss with your presbyter and indicate the appropriate application needed

- Recognition of Divorce Due to Abandonment of the Believer by the Unbeliever
- Recognition of Divorce Due to Domestic Violence
- Recognition of Divorce Due to Ecclesiastical Annulment
- Recognition of a Pre-Conversion Divorce
- Recognition of Divorce Due to Spousal Infidelity

15. Have you fulfilled the course requirements as specified by The General Council of the Assemblies of God?

(Please refer to the requirements listed at the end of this document) Yes No Partial Completion *Attach transcript*

16. What Bible or ministry training have you completed?

Note: You must submit with this application a **transcript** for all completed courses.

Failure to do so will delay processing your credential application.

- a. Bible college Yes No
Major _____ Degree _____
Name of college / Bible college _____ Semesters completed _____
- b. Seminary Yes No
Major _____ Degree _____
Name of Seminary _____ Semesters completed _____
- c. Correspondence courses? Yes No
Name of school _____ Number of courses completed _____

17. If you did not attend an Assemblies of God school of higher education, have you completed the following courses?

Assemblies of God History, Missions, and Governance Yes No

A Spirit-Empowered Church: An Acts 2 Ministry Model Yes No

18. Do you have any outstanding liabilities? Yes No

19. Are you current on these payments? Yes No

Attach your transcript, a copy of your driver's license and social security card.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pastor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Presbyter's Signature: _____ Date: _____

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY'S BEREAN SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CERTIFIED MINISTER

BIB 114	Christ in the Synoptic Gospels (BIB112 Synoptic Gospels satisfies this course requirement)
BIB 121	Introduction to Hermeneutics: How to Interpret the Bible
BIB 212	New Testament Survey
BIB 214	Old Testament Survey
MIN171	A Spirit-Empowered Church: an Acts 2 Ministry Model*
MIN 181	Relationships and Ethics in Ministry
MIN 191	Beginning Ministerial Internship
THE 114	Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine
THE 142	Assemblies of God History, Missions, and Governance*
THE 211	Introduction to Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective

LICENSED MINISTER

BIB 115	Acts: The Holy Spirit at Work in Believers
BIB 117	Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon
BIB 215	Romans: Justification by Faith
MIN 123	The Local Church in Evangelism
MIN 223	Introduction to Homiletics
MIN 251	Effective Leadership
MIN 261	Introduction to Assemblies of God Missions
MIN 281	Conflict Management for Church Leaders
MIN 291	Intermediate Ministerial Internship
THE 245	Eschatology: A Study of Things to Come

ORDAINED MINISTER

BIB 313	The Corinthian Correspondence
BIB 318	The Pentateuch
BIB 322	The Poetic Books
MIN 325	Preaching in the Contemporary World
MIN 327	Church Administration, Finance, and Law
MIN 381	Pastoral Ministry
MIN 391	Advanced Ministerial Internship
THE 311	Prayer and Worship

Upon completion of the Ministerial Studies Diploma (including all three levels of study), the student will have met the minimum academic requirements to apply for the ordination process with the General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States.

Successful completion of the Ministerial Studies Program should prepare the student for credentialing interviews and tests. The student will have mastered the basic Bible content (Old and New Testaments), theological principles, and practical ministry skills for service in a church leadership position.

For information on Global/Berean University visit www.globaluniversity.edu.

Please note: Regardless of where you receive your education, you must complete the Berean courses Assemblies of God History, Missions, and Governance and A Spirit Empowered Church: An Acts 2 Ministry Model.

Course requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the General Council

Revised 8/2020

INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE

The form must be hand signed and dated in the presence of a notary. Return to the district office.

I, _____ (name of applicant) , of _____ (City, State)_____having filed an application for credentials with the **South Carolina** District of the Assemblies of God, consent to have an investigation made as to the conduct of my personal affairs, my moral character, professional reputation, fitness for the ministry, and such further information as may be received by or reported to the above-named district. I agree to give any further information, which may be required in reference to my past history.

I authorize and request every person, firm, company, corporation, governmental agency, court, association, church, educational facility, or institution having control of any documents, records, and other information pertaining to me to furnish to the **South Carolina** District of the Assemblies of God any such information, including documents, records, or other information regarding charges or complaints filed against me, formal or informal, pending or closed, and to permit the above-named district or any of its agents or representatives to inspect and make copies of such documents, records, and other information. I specifically waive any or all rights I may have to inspect or review any information provided to this district, its agents or representatives by any person or organization.

I hereby release, discharge, and exonerate the **South Carolina** District of the Assemblies of God, its agents and representatives and any person furnishing information from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising out of the furnishing or inspection of such documents, records, and other information or the investigations made by or on behalf of the above-named district. The **South Carolina** District of the Assemblies of God shall not be required to verify any information received during the course of its investigations, and shall not be liable for acting on the basis of any information which later appears to have been false or incomplete.

I have read and signed the foregoing Authorization and Release as my own free act and deed.

Signature _____ Date _____

STATE OF _____
COUNTY OF _____

Subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FOR SPOUSE

Sign in the presence of a notary, and return to the district office.

I, _____ (name of applicant's spouse), the spouse of _____ (name of applicant) _____ who has filed an application for credentials with the **South Carolina** District of the Assemblies of God, consent to have an investigation made as to the conduct of my personal affairs, my moral character, professional reputation, fitness for the ministry, and such further information as may be received by or reported to the above-named district. I agree to give any further information, which may be required in reference to my past history.

I authorize and request every person, firm, company, corporation, governmental agency, court, association, church, educational facility, or institution having control of any documents, records, and other information pertaining to me to furnish to the **South Carolina** District of the Assemblies of God any such information, including documents, records, or other information regarding charges or complaints filed against me, formal or informal, pending or closed, and to permit the above-named district or any of its agents or representatives to inspect and make copies of such documents, records, and other information. I specifically waive any or all rights I may have to inspect or review any information provided to this district, its agents or representatives by any person or organization.

I hereby release, discharge, and exonerate the **South Carolina** District of the Assemblies of God, its agents and representatives and any person furnishing information from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising out of the furnishing or inspection of such documents, records, and other information or the investigations made by or on behalf of the above-named district. The **South Carolina** District of the Assemblies of God shall not be required to verify any information received during the course of its investigations, and shall not be liable for acting on the basis of any information which later appears to have been false or incomplete.

I have read and signed the foregoing Authorization and Release as my own free act and deed.

Signature _____ Date _____

STATE OF _____
COUNTY OF _____

Subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

BACKGROUND CHECK DISCLOSURE

The General Council of the Assemblies of God

I, _____, hereby authorize The General Council of the Assemblies of God and/or the **South Carolina** District to make an independent investigation of my background, references, character, past employment, education, credit history, criminal or police records, including those maintained by both public and private organizations and all public records for the purpose of confirming the information contained on my Application and/or obtaining other information which may be material to my qualifications for credentialing now and, if applicable, during the tenure of my credentials with the Assemblies of God.

I release the Assemblies of God and/or the **South Carolina** District and any person or entity, which provides information pursuant to this authorization, from any and all liabilities, claims or law suits in regards to the information obtained from any and all of the above referenced sources used.

The following is my true and complete legal name and all information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

Full Legal Name (Printed or typed)

Name as it appears on your driver's license (Printed or typed)

Maiden Name or Other Names Used (Printed or typed)

*Date of Birth

_____-_____-_____
Social Security Number
(a copy of your SS card is required)

Signature

Date

**NOTE: The above information is required for identification purposes only, and is in no manner used as qualifications for credentialing.*

If you would like to receive a copy of your background report, please contact the LexisNexis Consumer Center at 800.845.6004.

Code of Ethics

for Credentialed Assemblies of God Ministers



SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited. (2 Corinthians 6:1, 3)

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ . . . (Philippians 1:27)

All who are called by God to the ministry of the gospel solemnly commit to a life of joyful obedience and selfless service in order to glorify God and enrich his people. Therefore, as a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God, be it acknowledged by your signature below that you join voluntarily in this solemn commitment to:

Pursue Integrity

Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things . . . (1 Chronicles 29:17)

- **in personal character.**
Exalt the Messiah Jesus, not self. Be honest, not exaggerating or overpromising; peace-loving, not contentious; patient, not volatile; diligent, not slothful. Avoid and, when necessary, report conflicts of interest and seek counsel.
- **in personal care.**
Care for the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical dimensions of your person, for “your bodies are *the* temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- **in prayer and study of the Word of God.**
Preserve and guard your personal relationship with the heavenly Father and his Son, the Messiah Jesus, through devoted prayer and diligent study of his Word. Come into agreement with Him to discern his will with the aid of the Holy Spirit. Agree with the apostolic leadership of the first century, “And we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).
- **in preaching and teaching.**
Interpret the Bible accurately and apply it discerningly: “In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned” (Titus 2:7-8). Speak the truth in love. Give due credit when using the words or ideas of others.
- **in respect and honor of ministers, assemblies and the ministry.**
Develop a collegiality with other ministers and friends to provide fellowship, accountability, support and counsel. Avoid aloofness. Love one another. Be generous to guest ministers, showing hospitality and genuine care for their welfare and livelihood. Respect those who precede and follow in ministerial assignments. Refrain from influencing adherents of other congregations to attend your congregation or interfere in another congregation. Be cooperative with those within the South Carolina District Council and seek to cooperate with other fellowships and ministries beyond that are faithful to God’s Word. Seek to learn from others and share growth experiences. Be supportive and loyal to the ministry leadership and team, or graciously resign. Strive to treat staff pastors under his or her leadership with respect, encouragement, and graciousness. When making ministry transitions, provide an atmosphere that guards the health of the congregation and provides a healthy environment for those who follow.

Be Trustworthy

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

- **in leadership.**
Model the trustworthiness of God in leadership to encourage and develop trustworthiness in others. Use power and influence prudently and humbly. Foster loyalty. Demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of the entire congregation.

Keep promises. Respond sensitively and appropriately to ministry requests and needs: “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.” (Luke 16:10).
- **with information.**

Guard confidences carefully. Inform a person in advance, if possible, when an admission is about to be made that might legally require the disclosure of that information. Communicate truthfully and discreetly when asked about individuals with destructive or sinful behavior patterns. Tell the truth, or remain discreetly silent: “He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.” (Proverbs 11:13).

- **with resources.**

Be honest and prudent in regard to personal and ministry resources. Refuse gifts that could compromise ministry. Ensure that all designated gifts are used for their intended purpose: "Therefore, if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?" (Luke 16:11).

Seek Purity

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. (1 Timothy 4:12)

- **in maintaining sexual purity.**

Avoid sinful sexual behavior and inappropriate involvement. Resist temptation: "Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality" (Ephesians 5:3a).

- **in spiritual formation.**

Earnestly seek the help of the Holy Spirit for guidance and spiritual growth. Be faithful to maintain a heart of devotion to the Lord. Be consistent and intentional in prayer and scriptural study: "Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

- **in theology.**

Study the Bible regularly and carefully to understand its message, and embrace biblical doctrine. In forming theology, consider biblical teaching authoritative over all other sources.

- **in professional practice.**

Identify a minister/counselor who can provide personal counseling and advice when needed. Develop an awareness of personal needs and vulnerabilities. Avoid taking advantage of the vulnerabilities of others through exploitation or manipulation. Address the misconduct of another minister directly or, if necessary, through appropriate persons to whom that minister may be accountable.

Embrace Accountability

Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2, 3)

- **in finances.**

Promote accepted accounting practices and regular audits. Ensure that church funds are used for their intended ministry purposes. Give tithes faithfully and payable to the South Carolina District Council according to the prescribed manner set forth in the District Council Bylaws.

- **in ministry responsibilities.**

Ensure clarity in authority structures, decision-making procedures, position descriptions, and grievance policies. Be a model of accountability at the highest organizational levels. Live according to God's purposes in worship, study, discipleship, mission, fellowship and service.

- **in the Assemblies of God Fellowship.**

Ensure compliance with the standards and expectations of the General Council, District Council and Sectional Council of the Assemblies of God. Support the leadership, promote and support Assemblies of God mission and ministries throughout the world.

As a minister of the gospel credentialed with the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, I commit to abide by the standards set forth in this Code of Ethics.

Printed Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____