

Obtaining the Certified Minister Credential

An Overview



Credentialing
Resource

Evangelical Missionary Church
of Canada HIS MISSION - OUR MISSION
emcc.ca

About the Certified Minister Credential

When an applicant is approved for the Certified Minister credential it means that he or she has been examined by a Credentialing Interview Team (CIT), and has been found to possess the skills, calling, competency, character, chemistry and theological background necessary for effective ministry in the EMCC. The Certified Minister credential is granted based on a proven and known track record. The credential remains in effect as long as the person: retains membership in good standing in a member or associate congregation of the EMCC, remains active in a ministry recognized by the EMCC and provides a report and signed Minister's Covenant annually to the EMCC Office.

Qualifications for the Certified Minister Credential

Certification is granted only to those individuals who are members in good standing of an EMCC congregation and who are formally recommended in writing by the leadership of this same EMCC congregation.

The Certified Minister (CM) credential is a special limited credential intended for a person in one of three categories. See Articles of Governance 4.4.4.:

- a. *A person who is not now licensed or ordained, but who will be employed in some specific pastoral or ministry role by an EMCC Congregation or by a denominational ministry of EMCC for which credentialing is deemed advisable by both the local and denominational leadership. It is expected that a Certified Minister will be supervised by a Licensed or Ordained Minister and only in exceptional situations shall a Certified Minister serve as the sole or senior pastor of a charge and only for a specified time, under the direct supervision of a regularly credentialed minister as designated by the EMCC Office;*
- b. *A person who is a member in good standing of an EMCC congregation, and who is employed by an educational, medical, residential, personal care, or other such institution in a Christian ministry capacity or who is a missionary in a recognized ministry for whom this credential is deemed advisable by the leadership of both the local congregation and the denominational leadership.*

A person who is engaged in a ministry in a local congregation where the individual is on a development path of study and service in preparation for regular licensing, and who is strongly recommended and endorsed on a continuing basis by the local congregation.

The Process to Obtain your Credentialed Minister (CM) credential with EMCC

Step #1 Initial Contact with a Regional Minister

Churches or National Ministries are encouraged to initiate these procedures prior to hiring any ministry worker who has not already been credentialed with the EMCC. Enquiries about Certification may be made by a local church or EMCC ministry by contacting a Regional Minister (RM)¹.

Step #2 Submit Stage 1 of the On-Line Application

Fill out and submit all Stage 1 forms, including

- A current resume
- A current philosophy of ministry²
- Two official written recommendations; one from the board of your local church³ and one from your pastor indicating your suitability for ministry in the area of your calling. (not a relative)⁴
- Two references; one from a former employer, one from a friend or neighbour (not a relative)
- Personal/Family Photo
- Family and Faith History (2 - 3 pages)
- Police check including a Vulnerable Sector Search (your spouse needs to submit this also)
- You will be asked to agree with and sign the EMCC Minister's Covenant.

Step #3 Consultation with a Regional Minister

Plan to meet with your Regional Minister, and review your Stage 1 materials, in order to be able to proceed. If you are being considered for a ministry position with an EMCC congregation, this must take place before any formal hiring or calling.

Step #4 Submit Stage 2 of the Application

Fill out and submit all Stage 2 forms, including

- Doctrinal Questionnaire
- Spousal Information Form
- Reflective Response on the book "Common Bonds"⁵ by Eileen Lageer
- Transcripts from all Post-Secondary Educational Institutions

- Two more references (respected church leader, and a person of your choice)
- Read and agree with: (*all found at www.emcc.ca*)
 - EMCC Articles of Faith
 - EMCC Bylaw
 - EMCC Position Papers “The Assurance of the Believer,” “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit,” “Faith and Practice” and “Christ at the Centre.”

Step #5 Attend a Credentialing Interview

- Staff will verify that your application is complete and will contact you to schedule an interview with the CIT (Credentialing Interview Team).
- Your spouse is required to attend the interview with you.

Credentialing Interview Information

Expect your credentialing interview to run 1 ½ - 2 hours.

- Bring a copy of your doctrinal questionnaire to the interview and be prepared to discuss and answer questions drawn from the entire questionnaire.
- Be prepared to discuss your reading, experience or other preparation in the following areas:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Commission living • Leadership • Evangelism and Disciple-making • Preaching • Counseling • Spiritual Formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer and Spiritual Warfare • Family Relationships • Church Growth • Administrative Skills • Conflict Management • Youth (if a youth pastor)
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- Be prepared to discuss the history of the EMCC from your reading of Common Bonds.

Step #6 Receive positive recommendation by CIT/Final Approval from President's Office

- The CIT will prepare a report and send it to the EMCC office for final approval.
- Any who are not recommended will receive a letter to that effect from the CIT.
- Those who are given final approval will receive a letter from the President's office.

What's Next?

- Successful applicants are now EMCC Certified Ministers.
- A Certified Minister whose credentials are current shall have the right to use the following initials after his/her name: CM, EMCC and shall have the right to present himself/herself as a Certified Minister of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada.

Common Questions

Does this credential expire?

The Certificate shall be valid for the length of the assignment for which it was granted.

Hence, certification automatically expires when the certificate holder ceases to be engaged in the ministry or position for which the certification was originally granted. Certification automatically expires if the supervising local church does not submit a yearly letter of endorsement.

In the case where a Certified Minister expects to begin in a ministry position other than that for which Certification was originally granted, the Certified Minister shall inform in writing the EMCC office in Kitchener of this change, requesting the continuance of certification.

Do I need to hold membership with an EMC congregation?

EMCC credentialed ministers are to hold membership in good standing for not less than one year in a local Evangelical Missionary Church. If you are in process with an EMC church and are from another denomination, the above requirement may be waived, but you are expected to take immediate steps to membership.

What Bible and Theological training is required?

Bible College and Theological studies are not required to obtain the Certified Minister credential, but they are certainly encouraged.

Endnotes

1. See the website at www.emcc.ca for a complete listing of Regional Ministers and their contact information.
2. Philosophy of Ministry: we are looking for your understanding of how the church works when it is working well. Write a 2 page summary of this, taking into account the role of pastors, leadership structure, place and significance of discipleship methods, small groups, public worship, etc.
3. Recommendation of the church board must come by formal resolution of the board that is to be quoted in the letter.
4. You will be asked to grant the CIT permission to contact by phone any of your references for further information.
5. *Common Bonds* – EMCC denominational history book available for purchase from the EMCC office in Kitchener or Calgary.

This document was prepared on behalf of the EMCC Credentialing Interview Teams as an aid to prospective applicants for the Certified Minister credential – Revised March 2013