

# Obtaining the Licensed Minister Credential

## An Overview



Credentialing  
Resource

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

### About the Licensed Minister Credential

When an applicant is approved for the Licensed 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 Licensed 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 a signed Minister's Covenant annually to the EMCC Office.

### Who should obtain the EMCC Licensed Minister (LM) credential

Obtaining the Licensed Minister credential is the usual first step for someone who is being considered, or, in some cases has already been hired, for pastoral ministry in an Evangelical Missionary Church or approved ministry. It is most suited for someone who is currently a member of an EMC church and has at least a Bachelor of Theology degree and does not currently hold ministerial credentials, exception being the EMCC Certified Minister credential. In certain circumstances this credential may also be appropriate for an applicant from a non-EMCC denomination.

### The Process to Obtain your Licensed Minister (LM) credential with EMCC

#### Step #1 Initial Contact with a Regional Minister

Initiate contact with a Regional Minister (RM) in your general area.<sup>1</sup> The RM will confirm which credential track will be suitable for your ministry, and if approved to apply, will direct you to the online application.

#### 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 ministry<sup>2</sup>
- Two official written recommendations; one from the board of your local church<sup>3</sup> and one from your pastor indicating your suitability for ministry in the area of your calling. (not a relative)
- 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<sup>4</sup> (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 to 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"<sup>5</sup> by Eileen Lageer
- Transcripts from all Post-Secondary Educational Institutions
- Two more references (respected church leader, and a person of your choice)<sup>6</sup>
- Read and agree with: (all found at [www.emcc.ca](http://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:
  - Great Commission living
  - Leadership
  - Evangelism and Disciple-making
  - Preaching
  - Counseling
  - Spiritual Formation
  - Prayer and Spiritual Warfare
  - Family Relationships
  - Church Growth
  - Administrative Skills
  - Conflict Management
  - Youth (if a youth pastor)
- 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 either **Licensed Ministers** or **Candidates for Ministry**, based on the following:

- If you are already serving as pastor in one of our EM churches or in one of our approved Other Ministries, you will now be a **Licensed Minister** and will receive a license Certificate and ID wallet card and government forms to apply for a permanent marriage registration number.
- If you do not yet have a ministry position you may remain a **Candidate for Ministry** for up to 2 years from your approval. If after 2 years you do not yet have an EMCC appointment this designation will expire.
- The EMCC Office will begin the process for you to obtain a marriage registration number for your province.
- During the first two years of your ministry, you will be invited to attend the EMCC History & Mission Seminar, which you are required to attend.

## Common Questions

### 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?

The BTh is the standard of preparation. Lack of a BTh degree does not necessarily preclude eligibility to apply for LM credentials. In exceptional cases, the CIT will consider applicants who demonstrate equivalency.

## Endnotes

1. See the website at [www.emcc.ca](http://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. The candidate and spouse are both required to complete a Vulnerable Sector Search. (VSS)
5. *Common Bonds* – EMCC denominational history book available for purchase from the EMCC office in Kitchener or Calgary.
6. You will be asked to grant the CIT permission to contact by phone any of your references for further information.

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