

Obtaining Recognition of Previous Ordination

An Overview



Credentialing
Resource

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

Thank you for your interest in ordained ministry in the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada. An important step toward making this a reality is the recognition of your current credentials by the process set out in this brochure.

We take seriously our mandate before God to provide careful screening and quality control concerning each person who comes forward to serve in our midst.

About Recognition of Previous Ordination

When an applicant is approved for Recognition of Previous Ordination it means that he or she has been examined by a Credential 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 Recognition of Previous Ordination 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 Recognition of Previous Ordination credential

Our Credentials Tenure Policy helps to clarify when such recognition is warranted. It states:

"Recognition occurs in cases where an individual holds credentials from another denomination and the EMCC has no bi-lateral agreement. That recognition may happen when it is judged that the previous credential is sufficiently equivalent to EMCC ordination. Where the preparation for ordination differs substantially, a minister from another denomination will apply for license."

The Process to Obtain Your Recognition of Previous Ordination (ROPO) Credential with EMCC

Step #1 Initial Contact with a Regional Minister

Initiate contact with a Regional Minister (RM) in your general area.¹ Expect to discuss your conversion and your call to ministry.

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

Expect to fill out and submit all Stage 1 forms, including

- A current resume
- A current philosophy of ministry²
- You will be requested to have four individuals provide references.
- 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"³ by Eileen Lageer
- Transcripts from all Post-Secondary Educational Institutions
- Two more references (respected church leader, and a person of your choice)⁴
- A letter of recommendation from your former denomination.
- 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 from the CIT to that effect.
- Those who are given final approval will receive a letter from the President’s office.

What’s Next?

Successful applicants have EMCC Recognition of non-EMCC ordination credentials:

- If you are currently serving in one of our churches you will now be able to work with the church to plan an installation, induction or celebration service. Please confer with the Regional Minister in your area as he is pleased to attend or send an EMCC representative to take part in the service, as schedules permit.
- You will receive a letter of approval and an official ordination certificate recognizing your ordination credential from the EMCC office.
- The EMCC Office will begin the process for you to obtain a marriage registration number for your province. If you currently hold a registration number through your previous organization, please request that they cancel your registration with the provincial government through that organization. You are not able to hold a number with more than one organization, nor with more than one province.
- You may now use the designation OM, EMCC following your name.
- During the first two years of your ministry, you will be invited to attend an EMCC History and 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 ROPO credentials. In exceptional cases, the CIT will consider applicants who demonstrate equivalency.

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. *Common Bonds* – EMCC denominational history book available for purchase from the EMCC office in Kitchener and Calgary.
4. 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 Recognition of Precious Ordination (ROPO) credential status – Revised March 2013