



EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY
CHURCH OF CANADA

**Policy: Divorce Consideration to the EMCC
(October 15, 2005, corrected March 28, 2007)**

This policy is based on the “Divorce Consideration” in credentialing as per Gov 4.7.2.

This policy is set out in three parts: the process for consideration under the extenuating circumstances provision; the factors to be considered by the ethics committee; the actual Governance provision.

The Process

1. A preliminary interview by the RM;
2. RM reports and consults with President;
3. If the case is sufficiently hopeful an ethics interview committee is gathered by the RM;
4. The EIC interviews and investigates; the committee must exercise the means necessary to get reliable third party confirmation of the facts;
5. The EIC deliberates and recommends;
6. The RM reports to the President;
7. The President considers;
8. If there is a need for further clarification the President asks for more information;
9. The applicant is either approved or not approved;
10. If the applicant is approved the credential packet is sent and the process for credential begins;
11. If CIT recommends the candidate and the president approves, the president takes the recommendation to the Board of Directors to deal with the Extenuating Circumstance clause. Ideally, only those applicants who are likely to be approved will advance to this stage.

Factors to Consider

The following factors are considered by an Ethics Committee

Grounds

Cases where there has been infidelity or abandonment by the spouse or where the divorce occurred prior to conversion, and where such circumstances can be reasonably ascertained shall be considered reasonable grounds to consider applying this extenuating circumstances provision. The recommendation to grant or reinstate credentials is entirely contingent upon clear and sufficient evidence of personal integrity and marital stability, as determined at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.

Reconciliation Sought

Was reconciliation in good faith sought by the applicant?

Repentance

Was there clear repentance and “ownership” on the part of the applicant for his/her part in the breakdown of the marriage?

Present State of Relationship with the Ex-Spouse

What is the present relationship with the ex-spouse? Will this relationship hinder ministry?

Present Stability of the Applicant’s Home

Has sufficient time elapsed to assess the stability of the applicant’s home?

Stance in Counseling Others

Do they oppose divorce and counsel against it?

Impact on Present and Potential Ministry

Can we assess the present and potential impact on ministry of the fact of divorce and remarriage?

Disposition of Children

Where are the children? How are they doing? What impact is this having on them? What affect does this have on the testimony of the applicant?

Personal Character of the Applicant and new spouse

What evidence is there that speaks for the good character of both the applicant and spouse?

Coping with the Stigma

How is the applicant coping with the stigma often attached to divorce and remarriage?

Honor or Dishonor

If you were a pastor, would your past be a negative or a positive?

Abuse

Has there been an element of abuse, physical, emotional or sexual? What was the applicant's involvement? If there has been, are there ongoing issues that compromise this application or disqualify the applicant?

National EMCC Articles of Governance

Gov – 4.7.2. In the Case of Divorced Persons

It is the usual policy of the EMCC not to credential persons who have been divorced or married to a person who has been divorced. At the sole discretion of the EMCC, as expressed through the decisions of the President and/or Board, an applicant may be considered for credentials where there may be extenuating circumstances. The applicant's case will be first adjudicated by an ethics committee and if the ruling of the ethics committee is favorable, the applicant may proceed to the regular credentialing process. In cases where there are judged to be extenuating circumstances, the application must be approved by a 75% vote of the Board of Directors.

It is the policy of the EMCC to review the credentials of a credentialed minister who, subsequent to credentialing, is divorced or who marries a divorced person. The credentialed minister shall immediately surrender his/her credentials and cease ministry. The matter shall be investigated by an ethics committee and a recommendation brought to the Board of Directors without delay. If the recommendation is that the credentials of the minister be reinstated, the Board of Directors must approve by a 75% majority vote.

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