



## Understanding Assemblies of God Levels of Credentials

Ministerial credentialing is the method by which an ecclesiastical authority acknowledges the divine call and qualifications of a person to serve in ministry. In most denominations, credentialing is only available to men or women who meet the biblical qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. These people fulfill one of the types of equipping ministries described in Ephesians 4:11. In the Assemblies of God, this endorsement is usually in the form of certification, licensing, or ordination.

If an applicant has graduated from an accredited Assemblies of God school with a degree in bible, theology, ministerial studies, or other church-related major, they may have already satisfied some or all the educational requirements. There are also some cases in which life experience or the transfer of a ministerial credential from another denomination may meet some or all the Assemblies of God requirements. In most cases, however, those achieving these levels will have fulfilled the following requirements:



1. **Certified.** The entry level credential in the Assemblies of God is called certified. Those who are granted certification have met the minimal educational requirements for that level, shown promise of usefulness for gospel work, exhibited evidence of a divine call, and been actively engaged in some aspect of ministry. Those who are certified have successfully completed the following classes:

- New Testament Survey
- Old Testament Survey
- Christ in the Synoptic Gospels
- Introduction to Hermeneutics
- Relationships and Ethics in Ministry
- Beginning Ministerial Internship
- Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine
- Intro to Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective
- Assemblies of God History, Missions, and Governance
- A Spirit-Empowered Church

In addition, they have also passed the Bible Knowledge and Doctrine exams as well as credit and background checks and have been interviewed by their local presbyter and sectional committee, recommended by the Network Presbytery, and approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are not eligible to vote in the business meetings at District and General Councils or to serve as district officers, General Council officers, executive directors, Executive Presbyters, and General Presbyters. However, they are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church.

In the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network, certified ministers are eligible to participate in most of the normal resources, training and seminars provided by the Network office.

- 2. Licensed.** The intermediate level credential in the Assemblies of God is called licensed. Those who are granted this credential have met the minimal educational requirements; shown clear evidence of a divine call, character, and preparation suitable for that calling; have practical ministry experience; and shown an evident commitment to devote their life in service to the proclamation of the gospel. Those who are licensed have also successfully completed the classes for the certified level as well as the following classes:

- Acts
- Prison Epistles
- The Local Church in Evangelism
- Romans
- Introduction to Homiletics
- Effective Leadership
- Intro to AG Missions
- Conflict Management
- Intermediate Ministerial Internship
- Eschatology

In addition, they have also passed the Bible Knowledge, Doctrine, and AG Polity exams as well as credit and background checks and have been interviewed by their presbyter and sectional committee, recommended by the Network Presbytery, and approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Licensed ministers holding current ministerial credentials are eligible to vote in the business meetings at District and General Councils but ineligible to serve as district officers, General Council officers, executive directors, Executive Presbyters, and General Presbyters. However, they are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church.

In the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network, licensed ministers are eligible to participate in most of the normal resources, training and seminars provided by the Network office. In addition, they are also eligible for free admission into our 15-week cohort on how to prepare for a lead pastorate. More information on the Charles T. Crabtree School of Pastoral leadership is available at <https://www.rmdc.org/spm>.

**3. Ordained.** Ordination is the highest and most coveted level of credential. Those who are granted ordination have met the minimum educational requirements for that level, shown evidence of a divine call, possessed a ministerial license, and been observed for a period of at least two years and found to have met the biblical qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9. Those who are ordained have successfully completed the classes for the certified and licensed level as well as the following classes:

- Corinthian Correspondence
- Pentateuch
- Poetic Books
- Preaching in the Contemporary World
- Church Admin, Finance, and Law
- Pastoral Ministry
- Advance Ministerial Internship
- Prayer and Worship

In addition, they have also passed the Bible Knowledge, Doctrine, and AG polity exams as well as credit and background checks and have been certified and licensed, interviewed by the Executive Presbytery, recommended by the Network Presbytery, approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and recognized in a formal ordination service involving an ordination charge and the laying on of hands by the Network's eldership. Ordained ministers holding current ministerial credentials are eligible to vote in the business meetings at District and General Councils and eligible to serve as district officers, General Council officers, executive directors, Executive Presbyters, and General Presbyters. They are also authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church.

In the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network, ordained ministers are eligible to participate in most of the normal resources, training and seminars provided by the Network office. In addition, they are eligible for the following leadership development opportunities.

- **CTC School of Pastoral Ministry.** This is a free 15-week cohort on how to prepare for a lead pastorate. More information on the Charles T. Crabtree School of Pastoral leadership is available at <https://www.rmdc.org/spm>.
- **Trinity Ordination Scholarship.** This is a 50% discount on all Masters and PhD programs at Trinity Bible College and Graduate School. More information on the Trinity Ordination Scholarship is available at <https://www.rmdc.org/tos>

For additional information concerning how to apply, advance, transfer, or renew a ministerial credential, see [www.rmdc.org/credentials](http://www.rmdc.org/credentials).