



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 signed Minister's Covenant annually to the EMCC Office.

Common Questions

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

Obtaining the Licensed Minister credential begins with an application process 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. In certain circumstances this credential may also be appropriate for an applicant from a non-EMCC denomination.

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?

A BTh, BRE, or BA in Pastoral Studies is the standard of preparation. The lack of an undergraduate theology or religious degree does not necessarily preclude eligibility to apply for LM Credentials. In exceptional cases, the CIT will consider applications which demonstrate equivalency or a Provisional License (PL) may be granted with subsequent provisions that will need to be completed (seminars, courses, mentorship, experience, etc.) before a full LM credential will be endorsed.

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

Step #1 - Complete Phase 1 of the Credentialing Application and Review with RM or DWP (see Phase 1 Brochure)

Step #2 - Submit Phase 2 of the On-Line Application

Fill out and submit all Phase 2 application pieces, including

- Doctrinal Questionnaire
- Spousal Information Form
- Christian Service Form
- Reflective Response on the book "Common Bonds"¹ by Eileen Lageer
- Transcripts from all Post-Secondary Educational Institutions
- Two more references² (respected church leader, and a person of your choice)
- If applicable, a written letter of recommendation from your senior/lead pastor indicating your suitability for ministry in the area of your calling (not a relative)
-

Step #3 - 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
 - Other Pastoral Ministry
- Be prepared to discuss the history of the EMCC from your reading of Common Bonds.

Step #4 - Receive 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 from the President.
- Once the President has signed off on the report your RM/DWP will inform you of your final result.
- Those who are given a positive recommendation will receive a letter and credential certificate from the President's office.

What's Next?

Successful applicants are now either **Licensed Ministers or Provisional License** credential holders.

- If you are granted a **Licensed Minister** credential, you will receive a license Certificate, letter and ID wallet card
- If you are granted a **Provisional License** you can be actively involved in an EMCC ministry while working through the provisions required to obtain the full LM Credential. You will receive a Provisional license Certificate, letter and ID wallet card.
- If your job requires it and it is recommended by the CIT, the EMCC Office will begin the process for you to obtain a clergy registration number with Vital Statistics which will allow you to perform weddings in your home province.

Endnotes

1. *Common Bonds* – EMCC denominational history book available for purchase from the EMCC office in Kitchener or Calgary. Free online version available here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1xfyce09s7a0agg/Common%20Bonds%20Book.pdf?dl=0>
2. You will be asked to grant the CIT permission to contact any of your references for further information.
3. Recommendation of the church board must come by formal resolution of the board that is to be quoted in the letter.

This document was prepared on behalf of the EMCC Credentialing Interview Teams as an aid to prospective applicants for the Licensed Minister credential – Revised May 2023