



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 the Minister's Covenant annually to the EMCC Office.

## Common Questions

### Who is 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 bilateral 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."*

### 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 ROPO Credentials. In exceptional cases, the CIT will consider applications which demonstrate equivalency.

## The Process to Obtain Your Recognition of Previous Ordination (ROPO) 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" <sup>1</sup> by Eileen Lageer
- Transcripts from all Post-Secondary Educational Institutions
- Certificate of Previous Ordination
- Three more references<sup>2</sup> (respected church leader, a person of your choice, denomination currently credentialed with)

### 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 1½ - 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 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 or Director of World Partners in your area as they would be 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 clergy registration number from Vital Statistics which will allow you to perform weddings in your home 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.

### 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 by phone 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 Recognition of Precious Ordination (ROPO) credential status – Revised May 2023**