



About the Ordained Minister Credential

The procedure presented in this brochure outlines the steps to be taken on the way to ordination in the EMCC. It will be important for the candidate to demonstrate Christian humility during this entire process. The local church board plays a central role throughout and as such is urged to proceed with due consideration at each step. Let nothing be done that will detract from our common purpose of glorifying God. The process intends to do several things: continue the 'quality control' process involved in any credentialing system, contribute to the development of the candidate by requiring the candidate to assess and synthesize personal and ministry development and clarify and facilitate the path to the credential we call ordination. The local church, the wider EMCC movement and the candidate all have a vested interest in assuring that there is a good and thorough examination of the candidate and a proper opportunity for confirmation, affirmation and celebration of the candidate's call to; and readiness for "stated ministry." Keep the Regional Minister (RM) in the loop throughout the process.

The Process to obtain the Ordained Minister (OM) credential with EMCC

Step #1 - Allow at least two years to elapse from time of Licensing

The elapsed time can be no less than two years from the date of granting a license to the date that formal application is made.

Step #2 - Inform Regional Minister/Director of World Partners

Before approaching the church board to initiate the ordination process, the prospective candidate should consult with a Regional Minister or Director of World Partners. RMs/DWP are available throughout the process to assist, offering support and resources.

Step #3 - Request that the Church Board / Leadership Team initiate process

The prospective candidate shall ask the local church board or leadership team, in writing, to initiate the process.

Step #4 - Board notifies congregation of intent to proceed

The board shall inform the membership that the application for ordination is being initiated and they shall make available to the congregation the steps in the process. If appropriate in your local context, the board may give opportunity for members to submit written, signed and dated letters either by way of support or by way of concern. The letters are to be submitted to the local church board. These shall be treated in strictest confidence and used by the Board in helping to assess whether or not to proceed. The time period for receiving these submissions shall be on, or before the third Sunday after the public announcement is made (21 days).

Step #5 - Letter requesting examination

If the board resolves by a two-thirds majority to proceed they shall then make a formal written request, emailed to the RM/DWP with a copy going to the EMCC office (credentialing@emcc.ca), stating they have given due notice to the congregation and have duly considered the request of the candidate and support the examination of the candidate's readiness for ordination.

Step #6 - Consultation with a Regional Minister or Director of World Partners

Plan to meet with your RM/DWP, to discern the readiness to proceed with ordination application.

- Provide confirmation that you have met the requirements to proceed to apply for the OM credential.

Step #7 - Complete On-Line Ordination Application

Your RM will submit your name and email and you will be sent an online invite to complete the online application.

Fill out and submit all application pieces, including

- Update of your Doctrinal Questionnaire from LM Application
- Update of your Philosophy of Ministry from LM Application
- Signed EMCC Credential Holder Agreements
- OM Ministry Form
- Biographical Snapshot
- Formal Evaluation of your Ministry
- One reference¹ (mentor)
- 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 #8 - Attend a Credentialing Interview

- Your Regional Minister 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 - 1 ½ hours.

- Bring a copy of your doctrinal questionnaire to the interview and be prepared to discuss and answer questions drawn from the entire questionnaire.

Step #9 - 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?

- The ordained minister shall be registered on the official roll as an EMCC ordained minister and all EMCC records will be updated to reflect the new credential. The date of ordination shall be the date of the EMCC President's approval.
- The ordained minister shall have the right to use the letters OM, EMCC.
- The EMCC Ordination Certificate, letter and the ID wallet card shall be mailed to the newly ordained minister.
- An update of newly ordained ministers will be published in the next EMCC newsletter.

Public Celebration of Ordination – Invitation to Congregation and Sister Churches

Upon the approval by the EMCC President, a local church public celebration of ordination may be planned if it is fitting in your local church context. If so, invitations to a duly called public celebration of ordination may be sent by you or your church office to the congregation and sister churches within the denomination and without. Typically, a Regional Minister or their delegate representing the EMCC family of churches shall officiate during the formal declarations and commissioning of the candidate.

Endnotes

1. You will be asked to grant the CIT permission to contact any of your references for further information.
2. 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 Ordained Minister credential – Revised March 2024