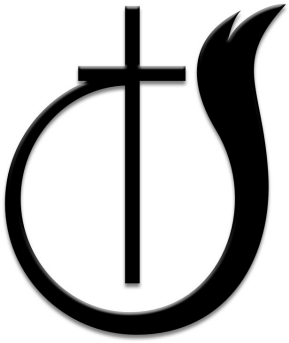
European Union Use Only



Church of God
Ministerial Licensure Application

New Minister
Exhorter
Calling and Ministry Studies (CAMS)
Minister of Music
Minister of Christian Education

(When Applicable)

NAME OF APPLICANT:
_____
Note: By completing this application form I, the above applicant, consent to my personal data, contained herein, to be transmitted to the European and International offices of the Church of God Cleveland, TN, USA
NATIONAL/TERRITORIAL OFFICE:
_____

CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL OFFICES
Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A.

August 2021

Church of God

New Minister, Exhorter, Calling and Ministry Studies (CAMS), Minister Of Music, Minister Of Christian Education (When Applicable)

You are preparing yourself to enter the ministry as an exhorter. This rank is the first officially endorsed step in the ministry of the Church of God. It is required that you serve as an exhorter before you are considered for advancement to the rank of ordained minister. The manner in which you serve will help determine whether the Church of God will endorse your ministerial advancement.

In preparing to enter the ministry in the Church of God, read these Scriptures, which are important in preparing for endorsement as an Exhorter: Matthew 10:16; Romans 15:1-6, 16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:31, 32; 5:1, 2; Philippians 1:27; 2:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15; 1 Timothy 3:1-16; 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:23-26; 3:10-17; Titus 1:5-9; 2:7-8; 3:9; Hebrews 13:5, 7, 9, 17; James 1:5; 3:13, 17; 1 Peter 5:1-10.

PART I: APPLICANT INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant's First Name_____Middle Name_____Last Name _____

Nationality _____ (e.g. French, Belgian etc.)

If dual nationality held please enter: _____

Address_____

City_____State/Province_____Country_____Postal Code: _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Mobile Phone _____

Email_____

□ Male □ Female Place of Birth_____

If married, name of spouse _____

Country of citizenship _____

Date of Birth _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

If you have children, list the name, age, and gender of all your children: _____

_____

_____

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

APPLICANT

1. Age at conversion____
2. Date of conversion ____
3. Age when sanctified____
4. Have you received the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues? □ Yes □ No
5. Age when baptised with the Holy Spirit _
6. Have you been baptised in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? □ Yes □ No
7. Date of water baptism ___/___/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

8. Have you backslidden since your initial water baptism? □ Yes □ No
9. If yes, have you subsequently been baptised? □ Yes □ No If yes, give date ___/___/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
10. Do you have regular family devotions? □ Yes □ No

SPOUSE

1. Age at conversion ___
2. Date of conversion ___/___/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
3. Age when sanctified ___
4. Has the applicant's spouse received the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues?
   □ Yes □ No
5. Age when baptised with the Holy Spirit _
6. Has the applicant's spouse been baptised in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?
   □ Yes □ No
7. Date of water baptism___/___/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
8. Has the applicant's spouse backslidden since the initial water baptism? □ Yes □ No
9. If yes, has the applicant's spouse subsequently been baptised? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, give date ___/___/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

CALL TO MINISTRY

APPLICANT

1. Age when you became aware of your call to ministry _____
2. Describe your call to ministry (use additional paper if necessary): _____
   _____
   _____

SPOUSE

Please describe how your spouse relates to your calling (select one):

□ Concurs enthusiastically
□ Concurs, but unenthusiastic
□ Does not concur
□ Unconvinced of your calling
□ Resigned, but resentful
□ Opposed

CHILDREN

Please describe how your child(ren) relate(s) to your calling (select one):

□ Concurs enthusiastically
□ Concurs, but unenthusiastic
□ Does not concur
□ Unconvinced of your calling
□ Resigned, but resentful
□ Opposed

MINISTRY-RELATED QUESTIONS

1. Are you a member of the Church of God? □ Yes □ No If yes, where?_____
   Date united with the Church of God ___/___/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
2. Is your spouse a member of the Church of God? □ Yes □ No If yes, where? _____
   If spouse is not a member of the Church of God, is he/she a Christian? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, identify the church preference_____Member? □ Yes □ No
3. Are you consistent in church attendance? □ Yes □ No
4. Are you consistent in tithing? □ Yes □ No
5. Are you consistent in giving offerings? □ Yes □ No
6. How many sermons have you preached? _____
7. Among the following activities, check the ones in which you are regularly involved:

□ Administration	□ Lay ministry	□ Prison ministry
□ Bible teaching	□ Music ministry	□ Senior adult ministry
□ Chaplaincy	□ Outreach ministry	□ Youth ministry
□ Children's ministry	□ Prayer ministry	□ Other ministry _____
□ Discipleship	□ Preaching ministry	

   Please describe any other ministerial involvement: _____
   _____

   List the most significant ministerial experiences you have had in the past six months:
   _____
   _____
   _____

   State briefly why you wish to become a minister in the Church of God: _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

8. List areas of the ministry in which you feel most effective. _____
   _____
9. Have you ever been certified by a local church as a lay minister? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, where?_____
10. Have you been licensed for ministry by another denomination? □ Yes □ No
    If yes, give name and address of organisation: _____
    _____
11. Do you presently hold license with that group? □ Yes □ No
    If no, how was license terminated? □ Voluntarily surrendered □ Revoked

Please explain the reason for surrender or revocation: _____

_____

_____

12. Give the name and address of the official to whom you were responsible:

Name:_____ Title:_____
Address:_____
City:_____ State/Province:_____ Country:_____ Postal Code: _____

13. Have you been licensed previously by the Church of God? □ Yes □ No

If yes, how was license terminated? □ Voluntarily surrendered □ Revoked

Please explain the reason for surrender or revocation: _____

_____

_____

14. Have you read the entire Bible? □ Yes □ No How many times? _____

(Reading the entire Bible before submitting the New Minister and Exhorter application is a requirement.)

Are you presently engaged in a systematic programme of Bible study? □ Yes □ No

If yes, please describe: _ _____

_____

MARITAL HISTORY

INFORMATION CONCERNING APPLICANT'S MARITAL STATUS:

□ Single, never married
□ Single, divorced
□ Single, widow or widower
□ Married with no prior marriage
□ Married but separated
□ Married with prior marriage

If you are married, answer these questions concerning your spouse:

Name_____ Date of Birth_____ Place of Birth _____

Date you were married_____ Has your spouse been previously married? □ Yes □ No

If married, describe your marriage relationship in terms of its stability, closeness, communication, togetherness, satisfaction, etc.: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

INFORMATION CONCERNING APPLICANT'S PRIOR MARRIAGE(S), IF ANY:

How many prior marriages?___How was (were) the marriage(s) terminated?

1st Marriage: □ Death of Spouse □ Divorce □ Annulment

2nd Marriage: □ Death of Spouse □ Divorce □ Annulment

Additional marriage history: _____

_____

_____

_____

INFORMATION CONCERNING SPOUSE'S PRIOR MARRIAGE(S), IF ANY:

How many prior marriages?___How was (were) the marriage(s) terminated?

1st Marriage: □ Death of Spouse □ Divorce □ Annulment

2nd Marriage: □ Death of Spouse □ Divorce □ Annulment

Additional marriage history: _____

_____

_____

_____

POLICY STATEMENTS ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE
Ruling as of August 2002

No applicant whose former spouse is living, or whose spouse's former spouse is living, shall be considered eligible for ministerial credentials except in cases where the divorce occurred because of the infidelity of the former spouse (Matthew 19:9), or the divorce occurred prior to initial conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or due to abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:15). **Conversion is interpreted as that point in time when one makes a public commitment to Christ, followed by a consistent Christian lifestyle.** In no case shall this provision apply to one who once walked with Christ, but who later divorced and/or remarried while living in a backslidden condition.

Whenever the applicant and/or spouse has a prior marriage, the applicant is asked to complete a set of forms concerning divorce and remarriage for each prior marriage. The applicant and spouse will be interviewed by the national/territorial overseer at a time and location set by the national/territorial overseer. With the recommendation of the national/territorial overseer and council, the marital forms are to be submitted to the International Executive Committee for consideration. When an applicant has been approved by the International Executive Committee, the applicant may be given the materials to begin the licensing process.

LIFE HISTORY QUESTIONS

1. **Educational Background:** (list names, dates of attendance and qualifications obtained)

   □ Certificate In Ministerial Studies Certificate (CIMS) _____

   □ High School _____

   □ Colleges or Universities _____

   □ I have not yet received a college degree, but I have completed ___ hours of college work.

2. **Employment:** Start with current or most recent employer. Give an accurate and complete full-time and part-time employment record.

   Current or most recent employer [Attach additional page(s) for previous employer(s)]

   Company Name _____ Telephone _____

   Address _____

   Dates Employed _____

   Job Title(s) _____

   I am no longer employed there because:

   □ I was laid off. □ I resigned. □ I was terminated by the company. □ I resigned because I was going to be terminated by the company.

BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

Answer all questions by checking no or yes.

1. Has disciplinary action of any sort ever been taken against you by a licensing board, professional association, or educational/training institution? ☐ No ☐ Yes
   Have there been written complaints against you that did <u>not</u> result in discipline? ☐ No ☐ Yes
   Are there any complaints pending against you before any of the above-named bodies? ☐ No ☐ Yes
2. Have you ever been subjected to ecclesiastical disciplinary proceedings? ☐ No ☐ Yes
3. Have you ever been asked to resign or been terminated by a training programme or employer? ☐ No ☐ Yes
4. Do you need help in the area of alcohol addiction? ☐ No ☐ Yes
5. Do you have a history of drug abuse with any other drugs: recreational, prescription, ☐ No ☐ Yes
   over-the-counter, or illicit? ☐ No ☐ Yes
6. Is there anything regarding your personal and private life which you knowingly should divulge to those examining you for ministry? ☐ No ☐ Yes

PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

In applying for ministerial credentials with the Church of God, I affirm my personal belief in the doctrine contained in the Declaration of Faith and elsewhere in the current Church of God Book of Discipline, Church Order, and Governance of the *Minutes* of the International General Assembly of the Church of God. I believe that the Practical Commitments of the Church of God are biblical exhortations for the life of holiness. I affirm my personal belief in, and practice of, the tithing system as recommended by the International General Assembly. I have prayerfully considered the above questions and statements, and I have answered them honestly and conscientiously to the best of my understanding and ability. I hereby pledge allegiance to the Church of God and dedicate my ministry to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Applicant's Signature_____Date _____

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

It should be noted that in the European Union, criminal background checks are not permitted except when the candidate will work with minors or is being employed under contract by the church for which this application applies. Even then, the candidate alone requests the criminal background check and voluntarily submits it to the National Overseer for evaluation. The Overseer may NOT retain that document nor make a copy of it.

Was a criminal background check required for this application?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'Yes' was the background check submitted to me, the National Overseer _____ (country)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Contents of the check will be considered in the application process.

PART II: PASTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This portion of the application must be completed by the applicant's local pastor.
If the applicant is currently pastoring a church, this form must be completed by the district overseer.

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITY

(*It may be necessary for you to interview the applicant and his/her family prior to completing this recommendation.*)

1. Do you feel that you know the applicant well enough to evaluate his/her eligibility for the exhorter credential?
   □ Yes □ No
2. Do you know of any reason why the applicant is not qualified for licensure in the Church of God? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, please explain: _____
   _____
   _____
3. Are you aware of the marital history of the applicant? □ Yes □ No
   [If you answered no, it is essential that you interview the applicant and gain this information before proceeding.]
4. In what ministerial position(s) within the local church is the applicant presently serving? _____
   _____
5. Has the applicant been baptised with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues? □ Yes □ No
6. Please describe the applicant's participation in church ministries:
   □ Faithful □ Unenthusiastic □ Effective □ Participates, but ineffective
7. Please describe the applicant's knowledge of the Word of God: □ Excellent □ Above Average □ Below Average
   _____
   _____
8. List any area(s) of the ministry or personal conduct where you believe that the applicant's performance is unsatisfactory:_____
   _____
9. List any area(s) where the applicant excels in ministerial knowledge and skills:
   _____
   _____
10. In what area(s) of ministerial knowledge and skills does the applicant need the most improvement? _____
    _____
11. Please describe how often the applicant is involved in preaching activities:
    □ Frequent □ Infrequent □ Strong initiative in seeking opportunities □ Lacks initiative in seeking opportunities
12. How long have you known the applicant?_____In what relationship? _____
13. How long has the applicant been a member of your local church?_____
14. Is the applicant faithful in tithing? □ Yes □ No In offerings? □ Yes □ No In attendance? □ Yes □ No
15. Is the applicant's spouse a member of your church? □ Yes □ No If no, please explain why not: _____
    _____
16. Is the applicant and spouse consistent in church attendance? □ Yes □ No If no, please explain: _____
    _____
17. Do you believe the applicant is called to a ministry that requires credentials? □ Yes □ No
    Please explain: _____
    _____
18. Describe the applicant's present ministerial activities: _____
    _____
    _____

19. List any ministerial and/or personal strengths you see in the applicant: _____

20. List any ministerial and/or personal weaknesses you see in the applicant: _____

21. Describe the spouse's attitude toward the applicant's ministerial calling: _____

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

22. Does the applicant have a history of good interpersonal relationships in the local church ministry? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If no, please explain: _____

23. Does the applicant have a good record of personal and financial integrity in the church and community?
❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not Sure If no or not sure, please explain: _____

24. Does the applicant have the trust and respect of fellow Christians? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If no, please explain: _____

25. Does the applicant demonstrate all of the following:

accountability	❑ Yes ❑ No	positive attitude	❑ Yes ❑ No
commitment	❑ Yes ❑ No	sincere love for people	❑ Yes ❑ No
emotional stability	❑ Yes ❑ No	spiritual maturity	❑ Yes ❑ No

If no to any of the above, please explain: _____

26. If the applicant is married, how would you describe his/her marital situation? _____

27. Do you feel confident that the applicant can control his/her temper? ❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not Sure
Do you feel confident that the applicant can handle high stress situations? ❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not Sure
If no or not sure to either of the above, please explain: _____

Signature of Pastor _____

Name of Local Church _____

Date _____

Recommendation of Pastor

I recommend the applicant for the exhorter credential.

❑ Yes ❑ Yes, with reservations ❑ No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____

_____

Signature:_____ Date: _____

Recommendation of District Overseer

I recommend the applicant for the exhorter credential.

❑ Yes ❑ Yes, with reservations ❑ No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____

_____

Signature:_____ Date: _____

Recommendation of National/Territorial Overseer

I recommend the applicant for the exhorter credential.

❑ Yes ❑ Yes, with reservations ❑ No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____

_____

Signature:_____ Date: _____

[To be completed by the Ministerial Examining Board]

Recommendation of Ministerial Examining Board

After reviewing the application form and interviewing the applicant and spouse, does the Ministerial Examining Board recommend the applicant for licensure? ❑ Yes ❑ No

Give reasons:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Signature of Board Members: Date Interviewed: _____

Chairman: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

FOR NATIONAL/TERRITORIAL OFFICE USE ONLY

To: Presiding Bishop _____

(Name)

This is to certify that _____

(Name)

has been duly examined on the doctrine and government of the Church of God by the Examining Board of _____ and is hereby recommended for the rank of exhorter.

Date of Examination _____ Grade _____

National/Territorial Overseer, please fill in all the above blanks.

Examining Board: Country _____

_____ National/Territorial Overseer

_____ Ordained (Bishop)

_____ Ordained (Bishop)

_____ Ordained (Bishop)

FOR FIELD DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Approved: _____ Area/Territory: _____

_____

Field Director's Signature

FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY

Credential File Number: _____

RANK OF MINISTRY: EXHORTER

❑ New ❑ Reinstated

Name _____

❑ Male ❑ Female Date of Birth _____ Nationality _____

Approved By _____

(Presiding Bishop)

Date Approved _____

Credentials issued, date: _____

Credentials delivered to: _____

Field Director of: _____ Date: _____

Remarks: _____

_____

F