



## Credential Application

Dear Credential Applicant:

The following application is the beginning of the formal decision-making process regarding the provision of ministerial credentials within the Discover Church Planting network (DCP). In the DCP, ministerial credentials:

1. Are a way of affirming God's call on your life
2. Are an acknowledgement that you desire to be in a relationship of spiritual covering, support and accountability.
3. Provide a recognized level of credibility to you based on your background, education and experience that you may perform ministerial functions

We are not perfect in recognizing God's call on every individual. With that in mind, we handle this prayerfully and are very careful in our screening process of applicants. The Discover Church Planting network is singularly focused on planting the Gospel in new places to bring life to new people so that new churches will emerge. So our goal in providing a ministerial credential is to advance that mission with those who join us.

### Instructions:

- Please fill out every area of the application completely. **As you type in the grayed out areas, they will expand as needed. Simply tab to each new response.** When finished, please sign it in the appropriate places, save it, and email it to [aarons@covechurchpnw.com](mailto:aarons@covechurchpnw.com) or mail it to the Discover Church Planting network at 13223 179<sup>th</sup> Ave E., Bonney Lake, WA 98391.
- In order for the application to be processed, please sign the included waiver.
- Please attach a current photo which includes you and any immediate family living with you.

Please refer to the "Statement of Faith" and the "Discover Church Planting network Convictions" which follow.

Again, our desire is to bless the call of God on everyone's life and to raise up and identify leaders with much prayer and with effective training so as to reap a harvest that is larger than we can imagine.

Sincerely,

Chris Hansler  
Discover Church Planting network

# Qualifications for Credentialed Ministers

While we hold to a clear, simple statement of faith and core convictions, we endeavor to be a relationally-driven, rather than policy driven ministry. As such, our decision-making process will start with the application but will be largely driven by conversation, your story, and relationship.

## I. Eligible Applicants and term of Credential:

A Discover Church Planting network ministry credential shall be granted to an approved applicant who is actively serving in a DCP member church or partner church, meets the requirements of a credentialed minister and renews the credential annually. If a DCP credentialed minister is no longer serving in a DCP member church or partner church, the credential will be held as “inactive” for one year and will be terminated after one year.

## II. Qualifications

An applicant shall be eligible for ministerial credentials upon satisfaction of the following criteria:

### 1. Follower of Christ.

### 2. The candidate’s life reflects, in growing measure, the fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22-23.


*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

### 3. They meet the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

*Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup> Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full<sup>[a]</sup> respect. <sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.*

### 4. They are able to interpret, understand and apply the Bible. This is evidenced by having a good grasp of the central doctrines of evangelical theology, and they show themselves to be a lifelong student of the Word. 2 Timothy 2:15

### 5. In full agreement with the Statement of Faith of the DCP

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6. **They have at least 2 years of proven ministry experience, and fulfill any educational requirements deemed necessary by the credential committee of the DCP.**
  7. **On “disputable matters” the DCP credential committee will determine the eligibility of a candidate.**
  8. **Acceptance and Approval of completed application, which will include personal information, employment and educational history, past ministry experience, references, and financial information.**

### **III. Credential Process**

1. Apply for Credential
2. Application is reviewed by the DCP Credential Committee
3. Upon approval of application, applicant is interviewed by designee of Credential Committee
4. Recommendation of Credential Committee is made to the DCP board.
5. DCP Board communicates result of Credential Committee to the applicant, and if approved issues ministerial credential to the applicant.

### **IV. Annual Requirements of Credentialed DCP Minister**

1. Pay application fee of \$75 and renew credential yearly.
2. Remain actively involved in a DCP Member church in good standing.
3. Attend a minimum of one Discover Church Planting network event per year.
4. Continue to meet the qualifications set forth for a Credentialed Minister (paragraph II above).



**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name:            Birth Date:            Gender: M F

Street Address:            Mailing Address:

City:            State:            Zip:            Email:

United States Citizen? Yes No If not, where is your citizenship?

Primary Phone:            Secondary Phone:

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Remarried Widowed

Maiden Name:            (if married female is primary applicant)

Spouse Name:            Birth Date:            Gender: M F

Have you ever been divorced? Yes No If "Yes," how many times?

If "Yes," in what year was the divorce final?

If "Yes," please briefly describe the circumstances that precipitated the divorce:

Has your spouse ever been divorced? Yes No If "Yes," how many times?

If "Yes," in what year was the divorce final?

If "Yes," please briefly describe the circumstances that precipitated the divorce:

Children

Name (include last name if different)	Date Of Birth	Age	Gender

Please share your story of conversion to Christ and your call to ministry.

Is there, or has there been in your past and/or in your spouse's past, any life-controlling habits or addictions that you need to be careful of and accountable for as you move forward *(if so, this will not disqualify you but it will allow us to be aware and supportive to your continued victory and growth in this area)?*

We will be requesting a criminal background check, but for the sake of our understanding please answer the following:

Have you ever been imprisoned for or convicted of a crime? Yes No

If yes, please explain the date and circumstances:

**EMPLOYMENT / EDUCATIONAL HISTORY**

Please attach your resume indicating complete employment history for the past 15 years as well as all formal educational training and diploma's / degrees granted as well as any professional certifications past or current. Please also include names, addresses and contact information of supervisors.



## MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

Are you currently serving in a church that is affiliated with a denomination, association or sponsoring organization? Yes No

If so, what is the name of the denomination, association or sponsoring organization?

Have you previously been credentialed (licensed/ordained) with another organization? Yes No

If yes, name of organization: Date that credential expired:

Planting Experience / Training (check all that apply): No experience with a church plant or formal planting training

Served as lead planter (how many times ) Served as planting intern Been a part of a church plant core group

Joined a church plant within its first year Part of a church that planted a church Participated in church planter training

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Please list up to three of your most recent ministry roles you have filled in the church setting *for more than one* year and answer the following:

**1. Ministry role Church & Location Dates of Service**

**Contact Person Email or Phone #:**

- 1) Who was your direct supervisor?
- 2) Did the attendance stay the same, increase, or decrease in your area of ministry?
- 3) Did you apprentice a new leader and if so, how did you recruit, train and deploy them and were they successful as leaders?
- 4) How long did you serve in that position?

**2. Ministry role Church & Location Dates of Service**

**Contact Person Email or Phone #:**

- 1) Who was your direct supervisor?
- 2) Did the attendance stay the same, increase, or decrease in your area of ministry?
- 3) Did you apprentice a new leader and if so, how did you recruit, train and deploy them and were they successful as leaders?
- 4) How long did you serve in that position?

**3. Ministry role Church & Location Dates of Service**



**Contact Person                      Email or Phone #:**

- 1) Who was your direct supervisor?
- 2) Did the attendance stay the same, increase, or decrease in your area of ministry?
  
- 3) Did you apprentice a new leader and if so, how did you recruit, train and deploy them and were they successful as leaders?
  
- 4) How long did you serve in that position?

List and briefly describe any other ministry experience you as well as your spouse have had inside or outside of the church setting:



**FINANCIAL INFORMATION \***

What is THIS PAST CALENDAR YEAR’S total family income range (in thousands):

Below 20   20-30   30-40   40-50   50-65   65-80   80-100   Above 100

What is THE AVERAGE total family income range FOR THE PREVIOUS 5 YEARS (in thousands):

Below 20   20-30   30-40   40-50   50-65   65-80   80-100   Above 100

Have you ever declared personal bankruptcy?   Yes   No

If yes, when?   ,   Describe the circumstances that led to the decision:

Have you ever declared bankruptcy in a business you owned or in which you were a top level executive?

Yes   No

If yes, when?   ,   Describe the circumstances that led to the decision:

How much debt and/or legally required monthly payments do you have:

Type Of Debt / Payment	Dollar Amount	Interest Rate	Monthly Payment
School Loans			
Mortgage			
Mortgage Equity Loans			
Car Loans			
Credit Card Balance			
Alimony			
Child Support Payments			
Other Loan			
Total			

\* We will be conducting an independent credit check.



**Why do you desire a ministerial credential with the Discover Church Planting network?**



## **Statement of Faith**

### **Discover Church Planting network**

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His victorious and atoning sacrifice through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that because of man's total inability to save himself, salvation is by God's grace alone; is received through sincere godly repentance, and a wholehearted acceptance of Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. Through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit, he becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is given to endue the believer with power from God, to offer an inspired witness for Christ, to lead the believer in a life of holiness, and to equip for a Spirit-filled life of service.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost. Those that are saved are resurrected to eternal life and those that are lost are resurrected to eternal damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Do you or your spouse hold any doctrines in conflict with those stated above?    Yes    No**  
**If yes, please explain:**



# Church Planting Convictions

## Discover Church Planting network

### 1. Making New Disciples

The purpose for any new church plant is to make new disciples who will reproduce other disciples.

### 2. Supporting Church Planters

The priority of the DCP is to identify, prepare and send church planters. It is not our primary intention to plant churches as an institution, but to prepare planters who plant churches.

### 3. Urgency of the Need

We must continually put forward the urgency for church planting in geographical, ethnic and cultural areas that inspires potential mother churches and planters.

### 4. Multiple Models, One Church

We recognize there is not a cookie cutter approach to “church”, but in order to engage the continuing support of the Discover Church Planting network it must meet these minimum requirements:

- a. The primary mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ
- b. There will ultimately be, at a minimum, weekly planned and scheduled gatherings that meet for the expressed purpose of making disciples for Jesus Christ, centered around the Word of God.
- c. There is qualified, called and recognized leadership, licensed by and in good standing with a recognized organization who guides the vision and direction of the church.
- d. They participate regularly in the sacraments of communion and baptism.
- e. They have consistent adherents who are committed to the mission and who show it through their regular participation and financial contribution.
- f. They meet the legal requirements of the by-laws of the organization they are associated with and of the state in which they operate.

### 5. Mother Churches

We believe that the best support model for church planting is the mother church model. We will encourage this model and we will provide supplemental support to mother churches.

Are you and your spouse in agreement with, and are you able to support the above stated convictions?

Yes   No

If “no” please explain:

## WAIVER

I authorize any references, schools, current or former employers, current or former supervisors, churches or denominational agencies, or any other person or organization, whether or not identified in this application, to give you any information (including opinions) regarding my character and fitness for church ministry. I hereby release any individual, employer, church, denominational agency or official, reference, or any other person or organization, including record custodians, both collectively and individually, and whether or not identified in this application, from any and all liability for damages of whatever kind or nature which may at any time result to me, my heirs,



or family, on account of compliance or any attempts to comply with this authorization, excepting only the communication of knowingly false information. I further state that I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING RELEASE AND KNOW THE CONTENTS THEREOF AND I SIGN THIS RELEASE AS MY OWN FREE ACT. A facsimile or photocopy of this authorization shall be as valid as the original.

I (check one) waive do not waive any right that I may have to inspect any information provided about me by any person or organization described above.

I further understand that a criminal records check may be conducted on me, and I consent to any such check. I further understand that a confidential credit check may be conducted on me and I consent to any such check.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE PROVISIONS, AND AGREE TO THEM. THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT AND I UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY CONSULT AN ATTORNEY PRIOR TO SIGNING IT.

Signature of Applicant Date

Signature of Spouse Date

Note: No application will be processed unless this waiver is signed by the applicant.

**CHECKLIST**

Please attach the following

Resume of Employment & Educational History

Current Photo

I have read, understand and will work in harmony with the Statement of Faith, Discover Church Planting network Convictions and Timeline. I understand that completion of this application is a first step, and does not necessarily guarantee that a supported new church plant will be the end result, but that the desire of the DCP is to come to a conclusion that will best serve the purposes of both the applicant and the Discover Church Planting and ultimately, God’s Kingdom.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To be completed by Discover Church Planting

Date Application Received \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Conversation \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Decision \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

*Thank You!!! Whew!!! You’re Done!!!*