

Excerpt from The Constitution of the Missionary Church

APPENDIX 1

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDENTIALING

Licensing

Applicants must have completed a minimum course of study consisting of at least one course in each of the following: Old Testament, New Testament, biblical or systematic theology, practical ministry theology, biblical interpretation, homiletics or communication, leadership and History and Polity of the Missionary Church.

Ordination

Candidates for ordination shall fulfill the educational requirements listed below

- Completion of any bachelor's degree in professional Christian ministries, or
- Completion of any master's degree in professional Christian ministries, or
- Completion of the Pastoral Leadership Institute course of studies, or
- Completion of a supervised course of studies including 32 semester hours of general education courses and 21 semester hours of professional Christian ministries courses, in addition to the minimum courses prescribed in the requirements for obtaining a license (Old Testament, New Testament, biblical or systematic theology, practical ministry theology, biblical interpretation, homiletics or communication, leadership and History and Polity of the Missionary Church), with a minimum of three hours in each of the following: Old Testament, New Testament, biblical or systematic theology, counseling, evangelism and discipleship, and one course related to the individual's area of ministry (youth, missions, Christian education, church planting, church growth, etc.).

General Information

Courses may be taken at Bethel College or any accredited (AABC, regional, or ATS) college or seminary including the correspondence departments of such schools.

Courses may also be taken through the Pastoral Leadership Institute or at schools which have been recognized for alternative education for those persons preparing for ministry for whom traditional educational programs constitute insurmountable geographical, financial, or family difficulties. The specific advantages and disadvantages of such programs are to be explained to interested persons.

The syllabus for the history and polity of the Missionary Church is printed in Appendix 2.

MISSIONARY CHURCH HISTORY AND POLITY

An Independent Study Course for New Pastors in the Missionary Church

Required Course Materials

Internet Downloads:

[“The Missionary Church: From Radical Outcasts to the Wild Child of Anabaptism,”](#) Erdel, Dr. Timothy Paul, *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*, September 1997

[“Marriage, Memory, and Mission: Reflections on the 25th Anniversary of the MCA/UMC Merger,”](#) Erdel, Dr. Timothy Paul and Engbrecht, Dr. Dennis

[“Merging and Diverging Streams: The Colorful and Complex History of the Missionary Church,”](#) Engbrecht, Dennis, Ph.D.

[“1883-1983, One Hundred Years of Historical Distinctives,”](#) Engbrecht, Dr. Dennis D.

[“Eusebius Hershey: First Foreign Missionary,”](#) Beals, Dr. J. Duane.

Video:

The Word, Revival and Evangelism: Historical Origins of the Missionary Church, 2005 [Available on DVD for \$10 (email [US Ministries](mailto:US_Ministries)), free online streaming ([Segment 1](#), [Segment 2](#), [Segment 3](#), [Segment 4](#)), or free transcript form (email hpcourse@mcusa.org).]

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a brief overview of the historical development of the Missionary Church from the time of the Reformation to the present. The course deals with various themes, major religious movements in Europe and America, and key personalities who have influenced the development of the Missionary Church.

Course Objective

As a result of this course the student should:

- Have a general appreciation for the historical roots of the Missionary Church.
- Be knowledgeable of the primary elements in the development of the Missionary Church.
- Be able to identify the major leaders in the history of the Missionary Church.
- Understand the distinctives of the Missionary Church (what makes it unique as a denomination).
- Complete a significant step toward PLI certification (for PLI students) and Missionary Church licensing eligibility.

Course Procedure

Complete this course by taking the following steps:

- Read the required articles which can be downloaded using the links provided above. Printed versions are also available if requested (hpcourse@mcusa.org).

- Download the exam by clicking [here](#) or request a printed version (hpcourse@mcusa.org). *You may use the exam as a study guide for your reading and reviewing.*
- View the required video, *The Word, Revival and Evangelism: Historical Origins of the Missionary Church*, which can be obtained in DVD format from your regional or district office, denominational office, Bethel College Library, or your local Missionary Church library; in online streaming format; or in electronic transcript format. (See links provided above.)
- Complete the exam. If possible, use your word processor to type the answers so that your completed exam can be submitted electronically.
- Submit completed exam electronically by email (preferred) or a printed version via US Postal Service (see instructions below). **Please note:** Your exam will not be processed until the \$35 grading fee payment is received.
 - *Electronic Method*
 - Send the completed exam as an email attachment to hpcourse@mcusa.org
 - Use your credit card to pay the \$35 grading fee online through [PayPal](#) OR mail a personal check to H&P Course, PO Box 9127, Fort Wayne, IN 46899-9127.
 - *Hardcopy (printed) Method*
 - Mail the completed exam and \$35 (USD) check payable to Missionary Church, Inc., to H&P Course, PO Box 9127, Fort Wayne, IN 46899-9127.

Results of your exam will be sent to you, your regional or district director and, for PLI students, the Pastoral Leadership Institute.

Optional Reading

The following list has been compiled to supplement your reading. This is *not* required reading. It is simply intended to assist in the search for information regarding the Missionary Church.

[*Constitution of the Missionary Church*](#)

[*Who We Are*](#)

Gerber, Dr. Wayne, ed., [*Foundations: Teacher's Manual*](#), 2002 (scroll down the Web page)

Lageer, Eileen, *Merging Streams*, Elkhart, Indiana: Bethel Publishing Company, 1979.

Lugibihl, Walter H. and Jared F. Gerig. *The Missionary Church Association*. Berne, Indiana: Economy Printing Center, 1950.

Storms, Everek R. *History of the United Missionary Church*. Elkhart, Indiana: Bethel Publishing Co., 1958.