International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues

Licensing and Ordination Qualifications and Guidelines
Qualifications & Guidelines for IAMCS Licensing (Intern) Program leading to Ordination

1. Salvation Experience
   a. Personal salvation for at least five years.
   b. Exhibiting strong growth and personal walk with the L-rd.

2. Relationship to MJAA/IAMCS.
   a. Membership in the MJAA for at least three years.
   b. Congregation is a member of the IAMCS or applicant.
   c. Committed to the goals and purposes of the MJAA/IAMCS.
   d. Regularly attends national & regional conferences of MJAA.
   e. Attends IAMCS Rabbi’s Conferences.
   f. Agreement with the MJAA/IAMCS Doctrinal statement.

3. Character References (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
   a. Should be known by at least 3 members of the IAMCS Steering Committee or at least 5 members of the MJAA Executive Committee.
   b. Morally above reproach (including finances of congregation).
   c. Wife also demonstrates calling to the ministry and Messianic Judaism.
   d. Committed to your own family and “house in order.”
   e. Three references by Messianic Rabbis or other Messianic leaders.

4. Calling
   a. Is called not only “to the Jewish people,” but “to be a part of the Jewish people.”
   b. Has demonstrated vision of Messianic Judaism and is committed to it.
   c. Peer recognition regarding calling in Messianic Judaism and as a Messianic Rabbi.

5. Experience and Training in the Ministry. (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Tim. 3:1-7)
   a. One who has been an Elder under another recognized Messianic Rabbi or Pastor (preferably Messianic) who feels the call now to be a Senior, Associate, or Assistant Messianic Rabbi or Messianic Pastor. The IAMCS will also license and ordain for the office of Messianic Teacher (must have a national/international teaching ministry) and Messianic Chaplain those candidates who are existing leaders in IAMCS Synagogues/Congregations.
   b. Has had some pastoral experience; preferably currently has a congregation that is Messianic.
   c. Must be a Senior, Associate, or Assistant Messianic Congregational leader (or similarly for Messianic Teacher or Messianic Chaplain) for at least 2 years, but typically for 3 years, before receiving Full Ordination.
d. Has exhibited pastoral & leadership abilities to the Steering Committee of the IAMCS.
e. Has attended 3 National Rabbi’s Conferences of the IAMCS and attended 2 Messianic Rabbi’s Training Tracks at the ‘Messiah’ Conferences.
f. Has an understanding of Messianic Synagogues and Congregations, biblically and practically.
g. Has an understanding of Revival for the Jewish people.

6. Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
a. Clear and demonstrable knowledge of the Scriptures obtained through Bible School, apprenticeship, etc.
b. Ability to teach and preach the Word of G-d.
c. Views are in accord with the MJAA/IAMCS Doctrinal Statement of Faith.
d. Views also in accordance with an “orthodox” believer’s Biblical perspective.
e. Some college education preferred.

7. Jewish Studies
a. Working knowledge of Jewish history, culture and customs.
b. Some knowledge of Hebrew (liturgical, conversational & biblical).
c. Understanding of Zionism and prophetic restoration of the nation of Israel and commitment to Israel.
d. Complete required number of IAMCS Yeshiva courses (at least 6) during the Licensing process.
   Mandatory Course #1 – Area: Theology
   Mandatory Course #2 – Area: History
   Mandatory Course #3 – Area: Apologetics
   Mandatory Course #4 – Area: Leadership Development
   Mandatory Courses #5 & 6 – Electives from any course area
e. Final Examination will be required upon request for full Ordination (at the end of the 2 years in the Licensing/Intern program)

8. Ceremonial
a. Should understand Shabbat biblically and know how to perform a Shabbat service.
b. Knowledge concerning appropriate Hebrew blessings and customs.
c. Understanding of importance of Davidic worship and praise.
d. Knowledge and ability to perform services for High Holy Days.
e. Knowledge and ability to perform Passover Seder.
f. Knowledge and ability to perform services for Shavuot, Sukkot, Hanukkah, and Purim.
g. Knowledge and ability to perform services for B’rit Milah and Dedication.
h. Knowledge and ability to perform services for T’vilah (Immersion).
i. Knowledge and ability to perform services of New Covenant Passover.
j. Knowledge and ability to perform cultural occasions such as weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, Bat Mitzvahs, funerals, unveilings, etc.

[Request for an application to enter the 2-year licensing/Intern program should be emailed to Messianic Rabbi Joel Liberman, IAMCS Director of Operations & Development at: rabbi.j.liberman@iamcs.org]