

Continuing Education Initiative

Yearly Continuing Education Credit Requirements*

Ministry Rank	CEC's Required Starting in 2018	CEC's Required Prorated for 2017
Ordained Bishop	20 Credit Hours	6 Credit Hours
Licensed Minister	30 Credit Hours	9 Credit Hours
Lay Minister	40 Credit Hours	12 Credit Hours

*Continuing education hours should not be confused with credit hours required in College or Seminary courses. For continuing education, an equitable system usually reflects a literal hour per credit equivalency. For instance, attending a one hour seminar would earn the minister 1 continuing education credit or (CEC). In contrast, if one takes a 3-credit hour college course towards a degree program, they would usually attend 3 classes a week for an entire semester to earn those 3 credit hours. Continuing Ed credits are different than college or seminary credit hours. Keeping that in mind, earning the suggested amount of credits should be manageable and enjoyable.

Qualifying CEC's, (Continuing Education Credits) and guidelines for attaining credits.



Continuing Education Credits Symbol. Qualifying events or self-study will be designated utilizing the leadership development core value symbol to specify the amount of credits earned. Qualifying events will show CEC and a number. This displays the amount of credit hours earned for each continuing education class or event. For example, the upcoming Equip has the following symbol and attending this event will earn 4 continuing education credits or CEC's.

State Sponsored Leadership Development Events and Courses. The South Carolina Leadership Development Department and the Palmetto Mission Initiative will provide ample opportunities throughout the year to earn CEC's. Events such as SOPAS, Equips, state sponsored regional leadership development courses and events and retreats to strengthen ministers will be great opportunities to earn continuing education credits.

International/North American COGOP Sponsored Events. The SC State Office will work hand in hand with the International and North American Offices in Leadership Development. Any event sponsored by these offices will certainly qualify and CEC's will be assigned to these events.

North Carolina COGOP Partnership. We have formed a partnership with the Leadership Development Department of the Church of God of Prophecy in North Carolina. The School of David and other leadership training events will qualify for CEC's.

State Sponsored Book Studies. The state leadership development department will offer a quarterly book study and each of these will earn CEC's. A specific book will be introduced each quarter and the book study will be a very interactive process. The participant will gain not only from reading the book, but will also learn from the discussion groups, and by sharing what was learned from the material. While each book is different and requires differing involvement, the range earned through the book studies will be from 2 to 4 CEC's.

Online Courses, Seminars, Webinars and Discussion Groups. The state leadership development department will offer ways to earn CEC's that will be delivered through electronic means. Preregistration will be required.

District/Regional Sponsored Training Events or Courses. We are encouraging districts or regions, (several districts coming together) to sponsor training events, seminars and classes for the benefit of leaders, ministers and pastors. These can qualify for CEC's if the sponsoring leadership contacts the state leadership development department **in advance and so the course or event can go through the preapproval process.** The state ministry team is here to partner in promoting and facilitating the event so let's get these going around the state. The State Leadership Development Department and the Palmetto Mission Initiative have many training resources available to make your training event successful.

Local Church Training Partnerships. Local churches can also sponsor leadership development courses, seminars and training events. These can also qualify for CEC's with proper advance consultation with the State Leadership Development Executive Director and the aforementioned preapproval. The department highly encourages that local churches open up to the other churches in their area. Not only would this provide shared training opportunities but it would also create needed fellowship among churches. It is amazing what can be accomplished when churches work together.

Conferences, Seminars and Training Sessions. There are many great sources for development and they are not exclusive to the Church of God of Prophecy. Just as we would welcome those outside of our organization to attend our events, I am sure we would be welcome at events and opportunities outside our organization. There may be things that you learn that could be shared for the benefit of other ministers and leaders in the state. To earn credit from outside events, please contact the leadership development coordinator for preapproval to confirm credits for attending and sharing what was learned.

College and Seminary Courses: Those who are pursuing studies with colleges or seminaries will receive continuing education credits for their efforts. The time requirement is much more strenuous for qualifying college or seminar courses. Taking this into consideration, each credit hour will earn 3 times the course credit hour designation. For instance, taking a 3-hour college or seminary course will earn 9 CEC's.

Miscellaneous Development and Training Opportunities. While this list of qualifying courses and sources is extensive it is not exhaustive. There may be other training and development opportunities available for ministers that may qualify for CEC's. The key here is connecting with the state leadership development department **in advance for CEC approval.** The goal is the development of the culture of continuous learning among the ministers in South Carolina and the department will work with you to see that accomplished.

Preapproval CEC Form and Yearly CEC Report Form: Preapproval for CEC's can be achieved by filling out the form provided. Continuing Education Credits will follow the calendar year and CEC's earned will be reported on the honor system at the end of each year. Ministers should keep personal records of all training events and courses attended. This CEC Initiative will begin in earnest in 2018 and will be prorated at 30% for 2017.