



Eligibility Guidelines for Examination for Consecration and Ordination

A candidate shall be eligible for consecration and ordination when they have:

- Articulated a call from God to pastoral or theological ministries
- Satisfied the academic requirements for consecration and ordination unless an exception is provided by the District Credentialing Council
- Satisfied all the requirements for consecration and ordination as listed in the *CM Handbook*
- Served acceptably as a provisionally licensed worker for at least two years
- Received the recommendation of their local church elders

Requirements for Consecration and Ordination

The development process for consecration and ordination can be broken down into four specific categories:

1. Ministerial education
2. Alliance culture and doctrine
3. Pastoral mentorship
4. Examination

The following sections detail the purpose, goals, and specific requirements for each category:

Ministerial Educational Requirements

- **Requirement:** *Complete 30 credits of academic study in Bible, theology, and ministry leadership with a minimum of 18 credits being in Bible and theology from an approved college or Alliance-approved alternative education pathway.* There are three options whereby this requirement may be satisfied. To satisfy this requirement, candidates must submit an official transcript which demonstrates that they have satisfied this requirement through one of the following methods:
 - **Option 1: Traditional Educational Pathway** – Take and provide evidence of completing 30 semester credit hours of study in Bible, theology, and ministry with a minimum of 18 of these credits being in Bible and/or theology from an Alliance college or graduate school or a fully accredited graduate or undergraduate institution that affirms the authority of Scripture as the only rule of Christian faith and practice.

- Option 2: Alliance Alternative Educational Pathway – Take and provide evidence of graduating from the School of Ministry, which is offered through the Alliance Center for Leadership Development. Visit allianceleaders.org for more information.
- Option 3: Non-Alliance Alternative Education Pathway – Take and provide evidence of graduating from a Church Ministries approved non-Alliance alternative education program. These programs must meet the 30-semester credit hour standard listed in option 1 and have prior approval from the Alliance Center for Leadership Development.

Alliance Culture and Doctrine Requirements

- **Requirement:** *Complete the readings listed on the Alliance Ministry Reading List.*
 - Niklaus, R .L., Sawin, J. S., Stoesz, S.J. *All for Jesus*
 - Simpson, A. B., Grusendorf, S. *The Fourfold Gospel* (modernized)
 - Simpson, A .B., *Wholly Sanctified*
 - Francis, M. *Filled with the Spirit, Then What?*
 - Bailey, K. *The Children's Bread*
 - Tozer, A. W. *The Deeper Life*
 - Tozer, A. W. *The Pursuit of God*
 - Chung, S. W., Mathewson, D. *Models of Premillennialism*
 - Pardington, G. *The Crisis of the Deeper Life*
 - Section H, *Manual of the C&MA*, 2023 Edition
- **Requirement:** *Complete the readings listed on the District Ministry Reading List.*
The candidate shall read a minimum of 500 additional pages of reading related to pastoral and missional theology or ministry leadership. The additional reading must be approved by the local District Credentialing Council.
- **Requirement:** *Successfully complete the Fourfold Gospel Project.* This project requires candidates to complete five individual learning tasks related to the Fourfold Gospel, a foundational Alliance concept. Candidates should refer to *The Fourfold Gospel* (modernized) when completing these projects. The default project for each of these learning tasks is a paper related to the following subjects:
 - a. Christ Our Savior
 - b. Christ Our Sanctifier
 - c. Christ Our Healer
 - d. Christ Our Coming King
 - e. The Church and Her Mission

- **With prior approval from the Credentialing Council, a minimum four-part sermon series, Sunday school curriculum, or small group curriculum may be submitted in lieu of a paper.*
- **Requirement:** *Successfully complete the Alliance Missional Engagement Project.* This project requires the candidate to complete a learning task related to the mission DNA for The Christian and Missionary Alliance. There are two options for this project:
Option 1: Project Prompt – Alliance Missions Field Research Project: Candidates will select an active Alliance Missions field and research the origins and current ministries of the field. A 6–8-page paper will be submitted which details the work of The Alliance in that field, strategies currently being employed on the field, and suggested steps the candidates’ local church could take to develop a new partnership or strengthen an existing partnership between their church and the field.
Option 2: Project Prompt – Short-Term Missions Trip to an Alliance Field: Participate on an international missions trip to an Alliance Missions field. Upon completion of the trip, candidates shall submit a 3–4-page reflection of their experience.
- **Requirement:** *Successfully complete the Alliance Church Multiplication Project.* This project requires candidates to complete a learning task related to church planting within the C&MA.
 Project Prompt – Work with your district leadership to identify, visit, and investigate an Alliance church plant. Investigate the key factors that led to the launching of this church plant and identify the top strategies being employed by the church plant to reach their community. Candidates are required to submit a completion form that provides the details of their visit.
- **Requirement:** *Successfully obtain Level 1 Certification from Alliance Peacemaking.* Ordinands are required to take and complete Level 1 Training through Alliance Peacemaking. This can be accomplished through a district training or through the completion of the School of Ministry 305 Change, Conflict, and Diversity in the Church course.
- **Requirement:** *Successfully complete a course of study in Alliance polity.* Ordinands are required to take and complete a course of study in Alliance polity. This can be accomplished through a district training or through the completion of the School of Ministry 304 Alliance History, Polity, and Theology course.
- **Requirement:** *Successfully complete a course of study in Alliance Missions.* Ordinands are required to take and complete a course of study in Alliance Missions. This can be accomplished through a district training or through the completion of the School of Ministry 105 The Mission of God and the Alliance Family course.

- **Requirement:** *Successfully complete an approved training in multicultural competency.* Candidates are required to complete a course of study or individual learning project in multicultural leadership. This course of study may be completed through a district- hosted training, the Alliance Center for Leadership Development, or the completion of a district- approved individual learning experience.
- **Requirement:** *Complete and submit the Evangelism and Discipleship Competency form.* The candidate is required to complete and submit an Evangelism and Discipleship Competency form. This form requires candidates to articulate their experiences in regularly sharing Christ with others within the past five years and their experiences in helping other disciples lead others to Christ as well. This form shall be submitted to the district office.
- **Requirement:** *Successfully complete an approved training in church health and multiplication.* The candidate shall successfully complete a course of study/training in church health and multiplication. A list of approved programs of study/training shall be kept up-to-date by Church Ministries and shall be reviewed annually.
- **Requirement:** *Successfully complete an approved training in evangelism.* The candidate shall be required to attend an evangelism training seminar approved by the district superintendent and the Credentialing Council. This training shall be applied in their local church.
- **Requirement:** *Attend a New Official Worker Forum (Resonate) hosted by the Church Ministries Office.*

Additional Requirements

- **Requirement:** *Lifelong Learning Project* (see template)
- **Requirement:** *Self-Understanding Project* (see template)
- **Requirement:** *District In-Service Training.* Candidates will attend **4** district in-service trainings. Attendance of the annual Training Ground event will meet **1** of the 4 attendance requirements.
- **Requirement:** *Monthly Ministry Reports.* Candidates shall submit **24** monthly ministry reports to the district office. (see template)

Pastoral Mentorship Requirements

- ***Requirement:*** *Pastoral mentorship.* Candidates shall meet with a district approved-mentor. This will preferably happen monthly during the time a candidate is in the consecration and ordination process but will not be less than four times yearly before being eligible for consecration and ordination. Candidates shall complete and submit to the district, in conjunction with their mentor, an Ordination Connection Report for each mentor meeting.

Examination Requirements

- ***Requirement:*** *Ordinands shall successfully pass a written examination proctored by an ordained district official worker.* Upon completion and submission of all ordination requirements to the district office, the ordinand will sit for a proctored, 8 hour written examination. Upon completion, the exam will be graded by the ordinand's mentor and forwarded to the district office. The graded will be reviewed by the District Superintendent who will then recommend the ordinand sit before the Credentialing Council for the oral examination, or require additional study or mentoring before the ordinand is deemed ready to take the oral examination.
- ***Requirement:*** *Ordinands shall successfully pass an oral examination by a council of peers.* Successfully complete an oral exam with members of the District Credentialing Council.
 - Prior to taking the Ordination Exam, ordinands must:
 - Successfully satisfy the requirements for ministerial education, Alliance culture and development, and pastoral mentorship;
 - Receive a successful recommendation from both their local church leadership and their ordination mentor;
 - Serve successfully in licensed ministry for at least two years in The Christian and Missionary Alliance.
 - Receive recommendation to sit for the oral examination from the District Superintendent based upon his review of the written examination.