

PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL



The purpose of the District credentialing council is to understand and evaluate all aspects of the candidate's life, ministry and beliefs (calling, character and theology [which includes an ability to handle the Scriptures well]). The candidate's doctrinal position shall be in full harmony with the EFCA. The paper should cover the areas listed on the Certificate of Christian Ministry (CCM) or the Certificate of Ordination (COO) or the Transfer of Ordination (TOO) Paper Requirements. The candidate will be questioned about the content of the paper and other items listed in the Paper Requirements not included in the paper. The council will also ask questions to clarify issues that are unclear or inadequately answered. Supplementing the local church's recommendation of the candidate's calling and character, the council will ask questions directed at personal holiness as it pertains to "issues related to lifestyle." The council is seeking to determine if the candidate upholds the high doctrinal and moral standard such that the candidate can be recommended for a permanent Certificate (CCM, COO or TOO).*

The council is not to determine what other council members believe, but what the candidate believes. The responsibility of the council is to recommend or not recommend the candidate for a permanent Certificate in the EFCA. (Please use the "Motions To Be Passed By District Credentialing Councils" document.) The actual decision to grant the Certificate will be made by the Board of Ministerial Standing (BOMS).

It is important to remember that the thoroughness of this process will determine the biblical and theological fidelity and vitality of the EFCA and its pastors. The process is intended to ensure the EFCA remains orthodox and retains its distinctives.

*The focus is on the council for the permanent Certificate. The licensing council, which grants a candidate a temporary three-year license, has a similar purpose, though the requirements for the paper and the theological expectations are different. Generally in the license the expectation/requirement is theological competency and alignment with the EFCA, in the CCM the expectation/requirement is theological proficiency and in the COO and TOO the expectation/requirement is theological mastery.