

# MINISTRY LICENSE - EXPEDITED APPLICATION



1. RG Staff that have served in an EFCA ministry 10 or more years.
2. Before completing this application, please contact your district office for full info about the district credentialing process: <http://go.efca.org/resources/districts>
3. Send this application and the materials on the checklist to *your district office to initiate the credentialing process. Items may be sent electronically.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTLY SERVING (CHURCH/MINISTRY): \_\_\_\_\_

MINISTRY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICANT CHECKLIST OF MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Letter of intent from you indicating your desire and reason for EFCA License
- Completed Affirmation of Requirement form
- Completed Minister's Profile

**Final Step: Send this application and the above to your district office.**

## DISTRICT CHECKLIST (to be completed by your district and forwarded to the EFCA)

- Above paperwork
- PSCQ Elder Questionnaire approved
- Phone call with candidate and district staff representative or DBOMS member

First page of packet

## Ministry License - Expedited

This credential is designed for those missionaries and staff serving with ReachGlobal and who have been involved in an EFCA ministry for 10 years or more, and who desire to be aligned with and accountable to the EFCA. The requirement is that the candidate has the appropriate theological understanding of the Statement of Faith, character worthy of a minister of the gospel, and alignment with the EFCA. Being approved for a license grants the candidate all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of an EFCA credential.

This license will only be available to obtain until December 31, 2024.

This Ministry License will be issued for three years and, thereafter, is renewable. One is not required to pursue the Certificate of Christian Ministry or the Certificate of Ordination but can renew the Ministry License every three years, in conjunction with the three-year reaffirmation of the Statement of Faith. If the candidate would like to pursue further credentialing, the district will determine, in consultation with the candidate, which credential will be pursued following this Ministry License.

For those who are credentialed (ordained) in a local church or in another denomination, once credentialed in the EFCA, the former credential would be considered inactive. Based on our congregational polity, we do not recognize or approve dual credentials (ordinations), which means the person's primary alignment and accountability is with the EFCA.

### **Required Documents for Ministry License (Expedited)**

(PDF copies to print and mail to your district)

- License Application
- Letter from candidate indicating his desire to be licensed by the EFCA
- Affirmation of Fulfillment of requirements
- Policy on Spiritual and Character Qualifications ([PSCQ](#)) Elders' Questionnaire only
- EFCA Minister's Profile

After the district office receives your required documents for this Ministry License, and before finalizing approval, a representative from the district or a member of the District Board of Ministerial Standing (DBOMS) will schedule a phone call with you to discuss the following questions:

1. Why is pursuing this EFCA Ministry License important for you and the church where you serve?
2. What do you appreciate about our Statement of Faith, and what do you perceive its strengths to be? Do you think there are any weaknesses?
3. What doctrines do you need to study further as you prepare for either the Ministry License Five-Year Renewable or one of the Certificates?
4. Is there any help or input you need for your next steps?

## OPENING WEB PAGE

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This license will only be available to obtain until December 31, 2024.

This Ministry License will be issued for five years and, thereafter, is renewable. One is not required to pursue the Certificate of Christian Ministry or the Certificate of Ordination but can renew the Ministry License every five years, in conjunction with the five-year reaffirmation of the Statement of Faith. If the candidate would like to pursue further credentialing, the district will determine, in consultation with the candidate, which credential will be pursued following this Ministry License.

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**Evangelical Free Church of America: Ministerial Credentials**  
**Policy on Spiritual and Character Qualifications**  
*Questionnaire for Elders*

Dear Church Elder Board (or equivalent body of primary leaders):

Your pastor, or another pastoral staff member, or a leader of a Christian ministry who is a member of your church, is applying for an EFCA ministerial credential. We support this pursuit and affirm the character qualities and ministry skills that this individual has exhibited and which have contributed to his or her seeking a credential.

An EFCA ministerial credential, whether a Ministry License, a Certificate of Christian Ministry, or a Certificate of Ordination (and also a Transfer of Ordination), is a formal, denominational commendation of a minister or church leader. It is a public acknowledgement that the individual exhibits the call of God on his or her life; personal integrity, character, and maturity; ministry skills that enable him or her to be competent in ministry; and adequate understanding of the Bible and its theological themes.

One of the requirements of the EFCA in our credentialing process is a clear recommendation from the local church which the credentialing candidate is serving or attending. We firmly believe that recognition of a minister's call to service and integrity in that service begins in the local church. Believing that the local church is best suited to recognize a person's character and call to ministry, we are looking for a recommendation that confidently affirms this call of God.

This step in the credentialing process grows out of a serious and comprehensive policy approved by the EFCA Conference: Policy on Spiritual and Character Qualifications related to the granting of Ministerial Credentials within the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). That policy is included with this questionnaire for your perusal.

Representing the wider family of EFCA churches, we ask you to fill out this examination/recommendation questionnaire thoughtfully, prayerfully, and seriously. Please note that it includes an **optional** character assessment inventory. Feel free to interact with the candidate in this process. We intend the questionnaire to be a tool for learning and growth where needed. We ask that this questionnaire be the collective effort of all the members of the elder board. All the elders must sign it. It should be received by the district office before a date can be set for the candidate's oral credentialing examination. (It can be sent hard-copy or scanned and emailed.)

The candidate and his or her spouse, or close friend if single, will also fill out similar questionnaires. The results of all these questionnaires will be reviewed by the district superintendent or his representative and/or the district credentialing committee. The affirmation of the candidate's qualifications for an EFCA credential will be included in the credentialing examination and sent to the EFCA Board of Ministerial Standing. After the credential is issued, all questionnaires (both electronic and any hard-copy versions) will be destroyed.

Some might view this task as perfunctory. However, believing in the importance of the local church and its authority, we ask you to take the responsibility very seriously. We wish to remind

you that this recommendation is of vital importance in the credentialing process. Your understanding of and confidence in this individual's call to ministry will be part of the initial basis upon which a credential is given. When a credential is eventually issued, the name of your church will be on the credential in addition to that of the EFCA. It will be a recommendation to all others that we have together affirmed this person's call to and gifting for ministry as an approved EFCA pastor or leader. If you have any questions about this required recommendation, please contact your district superintendent.

Thank you for this crucial part in the credentialing process.

Your district superintendent, district credentialing board, and  
the EFCA Board of Ministerial Standing

(Note: In filling out this questionnaire, please insert your answers after the questions. If you have not had occasion to observe the candidate relative to what is being asked, simply write, “Not observed, can’t comment.”)

### **Introductory**

Encouragement: We are confident of many good character qualities and ministry competencies in this candidate! What are two or three character traits and ministry skills in this candidate that have been a particular blessing to your church?

Time frame: How long has the candidate served in, or attended, your congregation?

Membership: Is the candidate a member in good standing of your congregation?

### **General character**

#### **Spiritual Walk and Fruitfulness**

1. Keeping in mind the biblical qualifications for elders in 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-4, briefly describe how the maturity and fruitfulness of the candidate’s personal walk with Jesus Christ has blessed your church. If necessary, describe also any reservations you have about the candidate’s spiritual maturity.
2. To help you answer these questions, use the accompanying Character Assessment Guides: For Candidates for an EFCA Ministerial Credential. Optional: you can submit the results of the inventory to the district office with this questionnaire.

#### **Relational Issues**

3. Describe how the candidate’s ability to relate to other people has blessed your church and served as a good example to the congregation. Include your observations about his or her reputation in the community; relational skills; proper use of authority; reconciling of conflicted relationships; healthy attitudes and actions toward other ethnicities; family-of-origin issues; emotional intelligence and health; connection with non-believers. If you have any concerns about this area, express those also.

#### **Moral and Ethical Failure**

4. To the best of your knowledge, are you aware of any misconduct on the candidate’s part, past or present, that is problematic in his or her being above reproach and qualified for an EFCA ministerial credential? This would include matters such as academic, sexual, and financial integrity.

## **Marriage and family relationships**

### **Current Marital Health**

5. Briefly describe how the integrity and health of the candidate's singleness or marriage has blessed your church and served as an example to the congregation. If you have any concerns in this area, mention these as well.

### **Children**

6. To the extent that you have been able to observe, briefly describe how the candidate's home life--overall family order, the relationship between the candidate and his or her children, or the candidate's response to the absence of children—has blessed your church and served as an example to the congregation. If you have any concerns about this, mention these also.

### **Marital History**

7. To your knowledge, is there anything in the candidate's pre-marital and marital history, such as sexual sin, impropriety, divorce, or remarriage, or harassment or abuse, which has negatively affected the candidate's integrity or competence as a church leader? If so, please explain.

## **Ministry Competence**

8. Briefly describe the candidate's overall competence in the skills necessary to his or her sphere of ministry. Are there any deficiencies of skills that call the candidate's ministerial integrity or fitness into question? If so, please explain.
9. Does the candidate exhibit adequate biblical-theological skills? Keep in mind such things as personal love for the Bible, understanding of theological concepts, biblical literacy, and soundness of method in interpreting the Bible.

## **Overall**

10. Does the candidate demonstrate that he or she actively supports the EFCA and demonstrates the interdependent spirit – unity in the essentials of the gospel, charity in the non-essentials – desired in the EFCA?
11. Do you recommend without reservation the candidate for ministerial credentialing by the EFCA?

NOTE: The names and signatures of all the elders or a representative from the board must be included at the end of this questionnaire.

Candidates Name:

Church Name/City/State:

March 2021



# MINISTER'S PROFILE

(Please complete the entire form)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Married

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Single

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Divorced

Widowed

DOB

Children

DOB

\_\_\_\_\_

(mm/dd/yyyy)

\_\_\_\_\_

(mm/dd/yyyy)

\_\_\_\_\_

(mm/dd/yyyy)

\_\_\_\_\_

(mm/dd/yyyy)

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Licensed with: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Ordained with: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Presently serving (list church or organization and location:

\_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Church Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

## Education

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ City/ State: \_\_\_\_\_

(Do not abbreviate)

Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

(mm/yyyy)

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ City/ State: \_\_\_\_\_

(Do not abbreviate)

Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

(mm/yyyy)

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ City/ State: \_\_\_\_\_

(Do not abbreviate)

Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

(mm/yyyy)

(continued on next page)



**Ministry History**

From(yyyy):	To(yyyy):	Church or Institution (Include City/State)	Position
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Chaplain      Yes      No      Serving at: \_\_\_\_\_

Active      Reserves      Current Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

- Air Force
  - Army
  - Navy
  - VA Hospital
- Air National Guard
  - Army National Guard
  - Civil Air Patrol

The Evangelical Free Church of America (has)(does not have) my permission to release the information contained in this document

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Electronic Signature Accepted)

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

## **Affirmation of Fulfillment of Requirements for EFCA Ministry License - Expedited**

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

- Affirm the EFCA Statement of Faith without mental reservation
- Alignment with EFCA ethos:

1. The Evangelical Free Church of America purposely allows latitude in significant areas of doctrine (e.g. the age of the universe, Arminianism and Calvinism, the use of the gifts of the Spirit particularly the miraculous gifts, baptism, the Lord's Supper, the tribulation, etc.). This has been referred to as the "significance of silence," viz. we will debate these issues, but we will not divide over them. Are you willing to minister alongside those whose views differ from yours on nonessential matters?
2. Are you in harmony with the mission of the EFCA "to glorify God by multiplying transformational churches among all people," as well as our distinctives? Please see the following link: <http://go.efca.org/explore/who-we-are>
3. Are you willing to live in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and policies of the EFCA? (This does not mean that you may not support a change to any of them through the proscribed process, cf. the next question.) Please see the following link: <http://go.efca.org/resources/document/bylaws>
4. Are you willing to follow and adhere to the congregational processes at the local church, district and national conference level in seeking changes in the programs or policies of the EFCA?
5. Is it your intention and desire to work in cooperation with the EFCA and the district in which you serve?
6. If at any time you change your doctrinal beliefs and/or find yourself in disagreement with the statement of faith and/or policies of the EFCA, would you be willing to surrender your credentials to the EFCA?
7. Is there any area or issue in your life which, if known because it has not been dealt with responsibly in a way that can be attested by spiritually mature believers, would bring disrepute on the Lord or the Church (drunkenness, gambling, plagiarism, pornography, racism, addictions, felony or "things like these" [Gal. 5:19-21])?

I hereby affirm that I have completed and agree to the above.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_