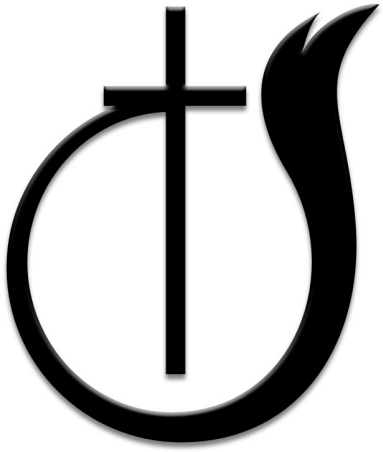

Church of God

Ministerial Licensure Application

New Minister, Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS), Exhorter, Minister of Music, and Minister of Christian Education

NAME OF APPLICANT:
_____
STATE/REGION:
_____

CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL OFFICES
Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A.

August 2020

Church of God
New Minister, CAMS, Exhorter, Minister of Music, and Minister of Christian Education Application Form

Instructions: *This form is the first part of the application process for licensure in the Church of God, and will become a part of each applicant's file. The applicant should complete Part I of this form and present it to the pastor with two letters of recommendation. The pastor should complete Part II, sign the application in the appropriate locations, and forward the form and the two recommendation letters to the district overseer. The district overseer should sign the form and forward the form and the two recommendation letters to the administrative bishop.*

In preparing to enter the ministry in the Church of God, read these Scriptures, which are important in preparing for endorsement as an Exhorter: Matthew 10:16; Romans 15:1-6, 16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:31, 32; 5:1, 2; Philippians 1:27; 2:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15; 1 Timothy 3:1-16; 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:23-26; 3:10-17; Titus 1:5-9; 2:7-8; 3:9; Hebrews 13:5, 7, 9, 17; James 1:5; 3:13, 17; 1 Peter 5:1-10.

Please indicate which credential: ❑ Exhorter ❑ Minister of Christian Education ❑ Minister of Music

PART I: APPLICANT INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant's First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____
Social Security No. _____Nationality _____
Please indicate ethnicity:
❑ African
❑ African-American
❑ American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut
❑ Asian or Pacific Islander
❑ Caucasian
❑ East Indian or West Indian
❑ Haitian
❑ Hispanic or Latino
❑ Jamaican
❑ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
❑ Other _____

Address _____ City _____ State_____Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email _____ ❑ Male ❑ Female
Place of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____ U.S.A. Citizen? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If married, name of spouse _____
If you have children, list the name, age, and gender of all of your children: _____
_____
_____

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

APPLICANT

1. Age at conversion_____
2. Date of conversion _____
3. Age when sanctified_____
4. Have you received the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues? ❑ Yes ❑ No
5. Age when baptized with the Holy Spirit _____
6. Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? ❑ Yes ❑ No
7. Date of water baptism _____/_____/_____
8. Have you backslidden since your initial water baptism? ❑ Yes ❑ No
9. If yes, have you subsequently been baptized? ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, give date _____/_____/_____
10. Do you have regular family devotions? ❑ Yes ❑ No

SPOUSE

1. Age at conversion _____
2. Date of conversion _____
3. Age when sanctified _____
4. Has the applicant's spouse received the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues? ❑ Yes ❑ No
5. Age when baptized with the Holy Spirit _____
6. Has the applicant's spouse been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? ❑ Yes ❑ No
7. Date of water baptism _____/_____/_____
8. Has the applicant's spouse backslidden since the initial water baptism? ❑ Yes ❑ No
9. If yes, has the applicant's spouse subsequently been baptized? ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, give date _____/_____/_____

CALL TO MINISTRY

APPLICANT

1. Age when you became aware of your call to ministry _____
2. Describe your call to ministry (use additional paper if necessary): _____

_____

_____

SPOUSE

Please describe how your spouse relates to your calling (select one):

- ❑ Concurs enthusiastically
- ❑ Concurs, but unenthusiastic
- ❑ Does not concur
- ❑ Unconvinced of your calling
- ❑ Resigned, but resentful
- ❑ Opposed

CHILDREN

Please describe how your child(ren) relate(s) to your calling (select one):

- ❑ Concurs enthusiastically
- ❑ Concurs, but unenthusiastic
- ❑ Does not concur
- ❑ Unconvinced of your calling
- ❑ Resigned, but resentful
- ❑ Opposed

MINISTRY-RELATED QUESTIONS

1. Are you a member of the Church of God? ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, where?_____
   Date united with the Church of God _____/_____/_____
2. Is your spouse a member of the Church of God? ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, where? _____
   If spouse is not a member of the Church of God, is he/she a Christian? ❑ Yes ❑ No
   If yes, identify the church preference _____ Member? ❑ Yes ❑ No
3. Are you consistent in church attendance? ❑ Yes ❑ No
4. Are you consistent in tithing to the church tithing fund? ❑ Yes ❑ No
5. Are you consistent in giving offerings? ❑ Yes ❑ No
6. How many sermons have you preached? _____
7. Among the following activities, check the ones in which you are regularly involved:
   - ❑ Administration
   - ❑ Bible teaching
   - ❑ Chaplaincy
   - ❑ Children's ministry
   - ❑ Discipleship
   - ❑ Lay ministry
   - ❑ Music ministry
   - ❑ Outreach ministry
   - ❑ Prayer ministry
   - ❑ Preaching ministry
   - ❑ Prison ministry
   - ❑ Senior adult ministry
   - ❑ Youth ministry
   - ❑ Other ministry _____

   Please describe any other ministerial involvement: _____

   _____

   List the most significant ministerial experiences you have had in the past six months:

   _____

   _____

   _____

   State briefly why you wish to become a minister in the Church of God: _____

   _____

   _____

   _____
8. List areas of the ministry in which you feel most effective. _____

   _____
9. Have you ever been certified by a local church as a lay minister? ❑ Yes ❑ No
   If yes, where?_____
10. Have you been licensed for ministry by another denomination? ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, give name and address of organization: _____

    _____
11. Do you presently hold license with that group? ❑ Yes ❑ No
    If no, how was license terminated? ❑ Voluntarily surrendered ❑ Revoked
    Please explain the reason for surrender or revocation: _____

    _____

    _____

12. Give the name and address of the official to whom you were responsible:
    Name: _____ Title: _____
    Address: _____
    City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
13. Have you been licensed previously by the Church of God? ❑ Yes ❑ No
    If yes, how was license terminated? ❑ Voluntarily surrendered ❑ Revoked
    Please explain the reason for surrender or revocation: _____
    _____
    _____
14. Have you read the entire Bible? ❑ Yes ❑ No How many times? _____
    (Reading the entire Bible before submitting the New Minister, CAMS, and Exhorter application is a requirement.)
    Are you presently engaged in a systematic program of Bible study? ❑ Yes ❑ No
    If yes, please describe: _ _____
    _____
15. As a part of this application process, obtain two letters of recommendation (one from your most recent pastor and one from an employer). Have these been obtained and included with this application request form? ❑ Yes ❑ No

[***This application cannot be processed without these two letters of recommendation.***]

MARITAL HISTORY

INFORMATION CONCERNING APPLICANT'S MARITAL STATUS:

- ❑ Single, never married
- ❑ Single, divorced
- ❑ Single, widow or widower
- ❑ Married with no prior marriage
- ❑ Married but separated
- ❑ Married with prior marriage

If you are married, answer these questions concerning your spouse:
Name_____ Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
Date you were married _____ Has your spouse been previously married? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If married, describe your marriage relationship in terms of its stability, closeness, communication, togetherness, satisfaction, etc: _____
_____

INFORMATION CONCERNING APPLICANT'S PRIOR MARRIAGE(S), IF ANY:

How many prior marriages?_____ How was (were) the marriage(s) terminated?
1st Marriage: ❑ Death of Spouse ❑ Divorce ❑ Annulment
2nd Marriage: ❑ Death of Spouse ❑ Divorce ❑ Annulment
Additional marriage history: _____
_____

INFORMATION CONCERNING SPOUSE'S PRIOR MARRIAGE(S), IF ANY:

How many prior marriages?_____ How was (were) the marriage(s) terminated?
1st Marriage: ❑ Death of Spouse ❑ Divorce ❑ Annulment
2nd Marriage: ❑ Death of Spouse ❑ Divorce ❑ Annulment
Additional marriage history: _____
_____

POLICY STATEMENTS ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE
Ruling as of August 2002

No applicant whose former spouse is living, or whose spouse's former spouse is living, shall be considered eligible for ministerial credentials except in cases where the divorce occurred because of the infidelity of the former spouse (Matthew 19:9), or the divorce occurred prior to initial conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or due to abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:15). **Conversion is interpreted as that point in time when one makes a public commitment to Christ, followed by a consistent Christian lifestyle.** In no case shall this provision apply to one who once walked with Christ, but who later divorced and/or remarried while living in a backslidden condition.

Whenever the applicant and/or spouse has a prior marriage, the applicant is asked to complete a set of forms concerning divorce and remarriage for each prior marriage. The applicant and spouse will be interviewed by the administrative bishop at a time and location set by the administrative bishop. With the recommendation of the administrative bishop and State Council, the marital forms are to be submitted to the International Executive Committee for consideration. When an applicant has been approved by the International Executive Committee, and has been given clearance from a national criminal background check, the applicant may be given the materials to begin the licensing process.

LIFE HISTORY QUESTIONS

1. **Educational Background:** (List location and degree received.)
   - ❑ Certificate In Ministerial Studies (CIMS) Certificate _____
   - ❑ GED Diploma _____
   - ❑ High School Diploma _____
   - ❑ Hispanic Bible Institute Certificate _____
   - ❑ Other Institute Certificate _____
   - ❑ Technical School Certificate _____
   - ❑ Associate Degree _____
   - ❑ Lee University Undergraduate Degree _____
   - ❑ Patten University Undergraduate Degree _____
   - ❑ Other Undergraduate Degree _____
   - ❑ Pentecostal Theological Seminary Graduate Degree _____
   - ❑ Lee University Graduate Degree _____
   - ❑ Other Graduate Degree _____
   - ❑ I have not yet received a college degree, but I have completed _____ hours of college work.
2. **Employment:** Start with current or most recent employer. Give an accurate and complete full-time and part-time employment record.

   Current or most recent employer [Attach additional page(s) for previous employer(s)]

   Company Name _____ Telephone _____

   Address _____

   Supervisor _____ Dates Employed _____

   Job Title(s) _____

   I am no longer employed there because: ❑ I was laid off. ❑ I quit. ❑ I was terminated by the company.

   ❑ I quit because I was going to be terminated by the company.
3. Have you ever initiated a lawsuit or been a defendant in a lawsuit? ❑ Yes ❑ No

   If the answer is yes, please provide the following information for each such lawsuit:

   Were you the plaintiff or defendant? _____

   In what court was the lawsuit brought? _____

   What were the claims brought? _____

   What did you do to try to resolve the situation without a lawsuit? _____

   _____

   Please describe the outcome of the lawsuit. _____
4. Have you ever served in the military, National Guard, or the reserves? ❑ Yes ❑ No

   If yes, did you receive an honorable discharge? ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, please explain: _____

5. Have you ever declared bankruptcy? ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, please explain: _____

_____

6. Do you have any ongoing problems with personal/family financial management, including credit card foreclosures, problems with debt collectors? ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, please explain: _____

_____

NATIONAL CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK QUESTIONS

(*If approved by the administrative bishop to continue with the credentialing process, these questions will be asked again by the Oxford Document Management Company.*)

*Please check either "yes" or "no" for each question. If the answer to any of the following questions is **"yes,"** please indicate the question number, provide relevant information regarding your response, and indicate resolution of the issues, if any. Use additional paper if necessary.*

1.	Has disciplinary action of any sort ever been taken against you by a licensing board, professional association, or educational/training institution?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Have there been written complaints against you that did <u>not</u> result in discipline?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Are there any complaints pending against you before any of the above-named bodies?	❑ No	❑ Yes
2.	Have you ever been subjected to ecclesiastical disciplinary proceedings?	❑ No	❑ Yes
3.	Have you ever been asked to resign or been terminated by a training program or employer?	❑ No	❑ Yes
4.	Have you ever had a civil suit brought against you relative to your professional work, or is any such suit pending?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Have you ever had professional malpractice insurance suspended or revoked for any reason?	❑ No	❑ Yes
5.	Have you ever been charged[1] with any ethics violation, or are any such actions pending against you?	❑ No	❑ Yes
6.	Have you ever been charged with having sexual contact or attempted sexual contact (sexual intercourse of any kind, intentional touching, or conversation for the purpose of sexual arousal) with individuals you were seeing in a professional context (e.g., a parishioner, a patient, an employee, a subordinate, a student)?	❑ No	❑ Yes
7.	Since the age of 21, have you ever been charged with engaging in sexual behavior (sexual intercourse of any kind, intentional touching, or conversation for the purpose of sexual arousal) with individuals under the age of 18 years of age?	❑ No	❑ Yes
8.	Have you ever been charged with the production, sale, or distribution of pornographic materials?	❑ No	❑ Yes
9.	Have you ever been charged or adjudicated with sexual misconduct, including the following:		
	Abuse of power or role for sexual purposes?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Sexual contact with a minor or an adult incompetent to give consent?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Sexual assault (e.g., rape)?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Solicitation for sexual purposes (e.g., prostitution)?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	An offense related to pornography or public indecency (e.g., indecent exposure)?	❑ No	❑ Yes
10.	Have you ever been charged with an offense related to sexual harassment, including the following:	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Unwelcome sexual advances?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Requests for sexual favors?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Sexually motivated physical contact?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Verbal or physical domination of a sexual nature?	❑ No	❑ Yes
11.	Do you have a history of alcohol abuse?	❑ No	❑ Yes
12.	Do you have a history of drug abuse with any other drugs: recreational, prescription, over-the-counter, or illicit?	❑ No	❑ Yes
13.	Have you ever been charged, arrested, or convicted for any crimes or misdemeanors?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Have you ever been charged with traffic violations?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Has your driver's license ever been revoked or suspended?	❑ No	❑ Yes
14.	Have you ever had a restraining order, injunction, order for protection, or the like issued against you as a result of allegations of domestic violence, abuse, or so forth?	❑ No	❑ Yes
	Have you ever had your parental rights restricted, suspended or terminated, or have any of your children been put into foster care?	❑ No	❑ Yes

[1]Throughout this document, "charged" indicates allegations made in writing and known to you.

15. Have you ever been charged with misappropriating funds or otherwise breaching fiduciary duties in any professional capacity? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    Have you ever been charged or convicted of writing "bad checks"? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    Have you ever been convicted criminally for income tax violations? ❑ No ❑ Yes
16. Is there anything regarding your personal and private life, such as immorality, pornography problems, or other problems, which you knowingly should divulge to those examining you for ministry? ❑ No ❑ Yes

PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

In applying for ministerial credentials with the Church of God, I affirm my personal belief in the doctrine contained in the Declaration of Faith and elsewhere in the current Church of God Book of Discipline, Church Order, and Governance of the *Minutes* of the International General Assembly of the Church of God. I believe that the Practical Commitments of the Church of God are biblical exhortations for the life of holiness. I affirm my personal belief in, and practice of, the tithing system as recommended by the International General Assembly. I have prayerfully considered the above questions and statements, and I have answered them honestly and conscientiously to the best of my understanding and ability. I hereby pledge allegiance to the Church of God and dedicate my ministry to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

PERSONAL CONSENT AND PERMISSION FORM FOR BACKGROUND CHECK

Your response to the above questions in this application will be helpful to your pastor in completing Part II of this form. It will also assist the administrative bishop and State Ministerial Examining Board to better evaluate you for licensure. By signing below, you are granting permission for this application to be released by the administrative bishop to those he deems necessary in processing your licensure application.

"I certify to the best of my knowledge and ability, the information provided in this New Minister, CAMS, Exhorter, Minister of Music, and Minister of Christian Education Application Form is true, correct, and complete. I authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application, including the conducting of a national criminal background check. I further authorize all references, supervisors, and organizations listed in this application to give to the Church of God any and all information concerning my previous employment and any other pertinent information, personal or otherwise, that they may have concerning my character or fitness to serve as a minister. I release any and all parties from any and all liability for any damage that may result from furnishing such information to the Church of God."

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

AUTHORIZATION FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

As administrative bishop of the Church of God in the state/region of _____, I do hereby authorize the Church of God Division of Education (DOE), Office of Ministerial Development, or an agency approved by the International Executive Committee, to initiate the national criminal background check as authorized by the *Minutes* (S21, IV, Item 6).

Signature _____ Date _____

Instructions: After the administrative bishop has reviewed and approved this application, a copy of this signed form is to be mailed to the COG Division of Education, Office of Ministerial Development, or an agency approved by the International Executive Committee, to initiate a national criminal background check as authorized by the International General Assembly *Minutes*. After the applicant has been given clearance from the background check, the applicant and spouse enroll in Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS).

PART II: PASTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This portion of the application must be completed by the applicant's local pastor.
If the applicant is currently pastoring a church, this form must be completed by the district overseer.

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITY

(*It may be necessary for you to interview the applicant and his/her family prior to completing this recommendation.*)

1. Do you feel that you know the applicant well enough to evaluate his/her eligibility for the exhorter credential?
   ❑ Yes ❑ No
2. Do you know of any reason why the applicant is not qualified for licensure in the Church of God? ❑ Yes ❑ No
   If yes, please explain: _____
   _____
   _____
3. Are you aware of the marital history of the applicant? ❑ Yes ❑ No
   [If you answered no, it is essential that you interview the applicant and gain this information before proceeding.]
4. In what ministerial position(s) within the local church is the applicant presently serving? _____
   _____
5. Has the applicant been baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues? ❑ Yes ❑ No
6. Please describe the applicant's participation in church ministries:
   ❑ Faithful ❑ Unenthusiastic ❑ Effective ❑ Participates, but ineffective
7. Please describe the applicant's knowledge of the Word of God: ❑ Excellent ❑ Above Average ❑ Below Average
8. List any area(s) of the ministry or personal conduct where you believe that the applicant's performance is unsatisfactory:
   _____
   _____
9. List any area(s) where the applicant excels in ministerial knowledge and skills: _____
   _____
10. In what area(s) of ministerial knowledge and skills does the applicant need the most improvement? _____
    _____
11. Please describe how often the applicant is involved in preaching activities:
    ❑ Frequent ❑ Infrequent ❑ Strong initiative in seeking opportunities ❑ Lacks initiative in seeking opportunities
12. How long have you known the applicant? _____ In what relationship? _____
13. How long has the applicant been a member of your local church? _____
14. Is the applicant faithful in tithing? ❑ Yes ❑ No In offerings? ❑ Yes ❑ No In attendance? ❑ Yes ❑ No
15. Is the applicant's spouse a member of your church? ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, please explain why not: _____
    _____
16. Is the applicant and spouse consistent in church attendance? ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, please explain: _____
    _____
17. Do you believe the applicant is called to a ministry that requires credentials? ❑ Yes ❑ No
    Please explain: _____
    _____
18. Describe the applicant's present ministerial activities: _____
    _____
    _____
19. List any ministerial and/or personal strengths you see in the applicant: _____
    _____
    _____
20. List any ministerial and/or personal weaknesses you see in the applicant: _____
    _____
    _____
21. Describe the spouse's attitude toward the applicant's ministerial calling: _____
    _____
    _____

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

22. Does the applicant have a history of good interpersonal relationships in the local church ministry? ❑ Yes ❑ No
    If no, please explain: _____
    _____

23. Does the applicant have a good record of personal and financial integrity in the church and community?
❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not Sure If no or not sure, please explain: _____
_____

24. Does the applicant have the trust and respect of fellow Christians? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If no, please explain: _____
_____

25. Does the applicant demonstrate all of the following:

accountability	❑ Yes ❑ No	positive attitude	❑ Yes ❑ No
commitment	❑ Yes ❑ No	sincere love for people	❑ Yes ❑ No
emotional stability	❑ Yes ❑ No	spiritual maturity	❑ Yes ❑ No

If no to any of the above, please explain: _____
_____
_____

26. If the applicant is married, how would you describe his/her marital situation? _____
_____

27. Do you feel confident that the applicant can control his/her temper? ❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not Sure
Do you feel confident that the applicant can handle high stress situations? ❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not Sure
If no or not sure to either of the above, please explain: _____
_____
_____

Signature of Pastor _____

Name of Local Church _____

Date _____

Recommendation of Pastor

I recommend the applicant for the exhorter credential.

❑ Yes ❑ Yes, with reservations ❑ No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____
_____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation of District Overseer

I recommend the applicant for the exhorter credential.

❑ Yes ❑ Yes, with reservations ❑ No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____
_____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation of Administrative Bishop

I recommend the applicant for the exhorter credential.

❑ Yes ❑ Yes, with reservations ❑ No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____
_____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The recommendation of the State Ministerial Examining Board is made after the applicant completes Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS).

[To be completed by the State Ministerial Examining Board]

Recommendation of State Ministerial Examining Board

After reviewing the application form and interviewing the applicant and spouse, does the State Ministerial Examining Board recommend the applicant for licensure? ❑ Yes ❑ No

Give reasons:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Signature of Board Members: Date Interviewed: _____

Chairman: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

MAJOR STEPS IN THE MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALING PROCESS

1. Submit the New Minister, CAMS, Exhorter, Minister of Music, and Minister of Christian Education Application.
2. Complete the Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS) program.
3. Pass the Exhorter Exam.
4. Submit the Ordained Minister and Ministerial Internship Program (MIP) Application.
5. Complete the MIP.
6. Pass the Ordained Minister Exam.
7. Submit the Ordained Bishop Application.
8. Pass the Ordained Bishop Exam.

FOR STATE OFFICE USE ONLY

To: Presiding Bishop _____
(Name)

This is to certify that _____
(Name)

has been duly examined on the doctrine and government of the Church of God by the State Examining Board of _____ and is hereby recommended for the rank of exhorter.

Date of Examination _____ Grade _____

Administrative Bishop, please fill in all the above blanks.

Signatures of the Administrative Bishop and the State Ministerial Examining Board

_____ _____
Administrative Bishop Ordained Bishop

_____ _____
Ordained Bishop Ordained Bishop

FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY

Credential File Number: _____

RANK OF MINISTRY: ❑ Exhorter ❑ Minister of Christian Education ❑ Minister of Music
STATUS: ❑ New ❑ Reinstated

Name _____

❑ Male ❑ Female Date of Birth _____ Nationality _____

Approved By _____
(Presiding Bishop)

Date Approved _____
Credentials issued, on: _____
Credentials delivered to: _____
Administrative Bishop of: _____ Date: _____
Remarks: _____

_____

_____

_____