Church of God

Ministerial Licensure Application

ORDAINED BISHOP

NAME OF APPLICANT:
_____
MINISTERIAL FILE NUMBER:
_____
STATE/REGION:
_____

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

August 2020

Church of God
Ministerial Licensure Application
Ordained Bishop

In consideration of your application for the rank of ordained bishop, a careful evaluation of your ministerial progress will be made. It is essential that all personal and professional data be current. Consequently, this application will repeat requests for information provided in earlier applications. To qualify for the rank of ordained bishop, you must be presently engaged in full-time ministry. The record of your ministry and your present activities in ministry will determine your eligibility for advancement to the highest rank of ministry. (NOTE: If you are transferring into the Church of God, you must complete a *New Minister, CAMS, and Exhorter Application* to accompany this application.)

PART I: APPLICANT INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____
Social Security Number _____ 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 _____
Email _____
Ministerial credential number _____ Date of Birth _____
Place of local church membership _____
Date you were licensed as an exhorter _____ Date you were licensed as an ordained minister _____
Describe the frequency and content of your personal devotions. _____
_____
_____
What significant spiritual experiences have you had since you became an ordained minister? _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
How many times have you read the Bible through since you became an ordained minister? _____ Are you presently engaged in a program of regular Bible study? ❑ Yes ❑ No Describe that study: _____
_____
Are you consistent in tithing to the church tithing fund? ❑ Yes ❑ No

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITY

(*Use additional paper if necessary.*)

What is your present ministerial assignment? _____
_____
Is this a full-time assignment? ❑ Yes ❑ No Are you involved in other income-producing work? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, describe the work. _____
Describe how your concept of ministry has changed since you became an ordained minister. _____
_____
_____
Evaluate your growth as a minister since becoming an ordained minister. _____
_____
_____
Briefly outline your ministerial activities since becoming an ordained minister. _____
_____
_____

Since you became an ordained minister, in which educational programs have you participated? _____

Why do you believe you are ready to advance to the rank of ordained bishop in the Church of God? _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

If married, name of spouse: _____. Spouse's email address: _____
If married, does your spouse support your call to ministry? ❑ Yes ❑ No Describe your spouse's participation in ministry. _____

If you have children, list the name, age, and gender of all your children: _____

If there are children at home, describe their participation in church activities. _____

If there are children at home, describe their response to your parental leadership. _____

Describe the frequency and content of family devotions._____

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

Has there been any change in your marital status since you became licensed as an ordained minister? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If the answer is yes, describe the change: _____

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

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

NATIONAL CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK QUESTIONS

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

Except for number 7, these questions apply only to the past five (5) years, or since you became an ordained minister, whichever is longer. Check either "yes," or "no" for each question. If the answer to any of the 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
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

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

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 Ordained Bishop Application 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 _____

PART II: PASTORAL RECOMMENDATION

(If the applicant is a pastor, the district overseer will complete this pastoral recommendation section.)

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITY

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

How long have you known the applicant? _____ In what relationships? _____

Please explain why you feel that you know the applicant well enough to evaluate his/her eligibility for the rank of ordained bishop?

_____

Do you know of any reason why the applicant is not qualified for advancement to the rank of ordained bishop? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, explain: _____

_____

_____

Are you aware of the marital history of the applicant? ❑ Yes ❑ No (It is essential that you be able to respond yes. If you cannot respond yes, then you should interview the applicant and gain this information before proceeding.)

In what ministerial position is the applicant serving? _____
Is the applicant fully involved in the ministry? ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, explain: _____

_____

Has the applicant engaged in continuing education and training? ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, what is the nature of the training?

_____

_____

If no, why not? _____

_____

In what areas of ministry is the applicant most active? _____

_____

_____

In what areas of ministry have you seen the most improvement? _____

_____

_____

List any area(s) of the ministry or personal conduct where you believe that the applicant's performance is unsatisfactory:

_____

_____

List any area(s) where the applicant excels in ministerial knowledge and skills: _____

_____

_____

In what area(s) of ministerial knowledge and skills does the applicant need the most improvement? _____

_____

_____

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Does the applicant have a history of good interpersonal relationship in local ministry? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If no, explain: _____

_____

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, explain: _____

_____

Does the applicant have the trust and respect of fellow ministers? ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, explain: _____

_____

Does the applicant demonstrate all of the following: a positive attitude, a sincere love for people, emotional stability, spiritual maturity and commitment? ❑ Yes ❑ No If no to any of these, explain: _____

_____

_____

Does the applicant demonstrate a respectful and cooperative attitude toward those over him/her in the ministry? ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, explain: _____

_____

Signature of Pastor _____

Name of Local Church _____

Date _____

Recommendation of Pastor

I recommend the applicant for the ordained bishop 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 ordained bishop 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 ordained bishop credential.

❑ Yes ❑ Yes, with reservations ❑ No

If yes with reservations, please write an explanation _____

_____

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 the *Ordained Bishop 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, a *Local Church Endorsement* form and an authorization card to purchse the study materials will be mailed to the applicant. The applicant will notify the state/regional office when he/she is ready to take the written examination.

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 ordained bishop.

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: ORDAINED BISHOP
❑ New ❑ Reinstated ❑ Promoted

Name _____

❑ Male ❑ Female Date of Birth _____ Nationality_____

Approved By _____
(Presiding Bishop)

Date Approved _____
Credentials Issued, Date _____
Delivered to _____
Administrative Bishop of _____ Date _____
Remarks _____
_____
_____
_____