

Foundational Standards for Licensing and Ordination of Ministers through Churches of the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies in Canada

In order to preserve the identity and the integrity of the ministers and churches of this Fellowship, policy standards for admission for both ministers and churches of the Fellowship are outlined in our Handbook. Our commitment to the autonomy of the local church is both respectful of Biblical principles and sufficiently flexible for the local expression of the Gospel in each church congregation.

The following minimal standards for licensing and ordination are required by the licensing/ordaining church. These minimal standards are sufficiently comprehensive in order to support the integrity of Christian ministry, while reflecting the values of this Fellowship.

The equipping ministries of Ephesians 4: 11-16 are embodied in people whom God has chosen. They are recognized by the public act of ordination through “the laying on of hands of the presbytery”. These requirements for licensing and ordination are to be included in the policies of the local church. The local church may choose to develop an expanded policy; - but must include the following items.

Criteria for Licensing

1. The candidate must be a baptized believer who confesses to the infilling of the Holy Spirit, membership within their local church, and a divine call to Christian ministry.
2. The candidate must commit to lifestyle & ministry expectations as described in I Timothy 3: 1-7; Titus 1: 5-9; and I Peter 5: 1-11
3. The candidate’s lifestyle must demonstrate faithfulness to biblical ethics, morality, values, and ongoing spiritual growth.
4. The candidate must subscribe to the statement of beliefs of their home church, and be supportive of the church mission, vision, and values.
5. The candidate must respect the leadership of their home church, and the same leadership must believe in the ministry potential of the candidate
6. The candidate must have completed a minimum of one year of formal Bible training or a minimum of two years of biblical self study.
7. The candidate must demonstrate a willing servant spirit by his/her commitment to an active ministry of the church

Conferring the license

1. In view of the candidate’s qualifications, service, and faithfulness, the church leadership may choose to confer a License to Minister upon one who demonstrates promise of effective ministry.
2. The candidate shall be interviewed by the leadership team of the church via a prepared series of questions and information; – which will include Biblical doctrine, local church values, and FCA policy.

3. The license shall be conferred upon the candidate with the unanimous decision of the church leadership, or as may be deemed by church policy or by-laws
4. The license shall be presented to the candidate in a public service
5. The practice of ministry shall continue under the mentorship of the pastor or appointed leader of the church
6. The License to Minister may or may not carry with it the privilege of performing marriages; - as per policy of the home church.

Criteria for Ordination

1. The candidate for Ordination shall have functioned satisfactorily as a licensed minister for a minimum of two years
2. The candidate shall have completed a minimum of three years of biblical studies through a biblical training institution approved by the local church.
3. In lieu of formal training, the candidate may have completed a minimum of five years of biblical self study
4. The candidate shall embrace a call of God to serve in Christian ministry for an indefinite period of time

Granting and conferring Ordination

1. The candidate shall submit a treatise on their philosophy of ministry to the leadership team of the church.
2. The candidate shall be interviewed by the leadership team of the church according to a prepared questionnaire and information which will include Biblical doctrine, local church values, and FCA policy.
3. The candidate shall require the unanimous support for ordination from the leadership team who shall view the candidate as a Godly and effective minister of the Gospel
4. The intention to ordain the candidate shall be introduced to the church congregation at least one month prior to the event.
5. The public ordination service shall be prepared with thought and prayer.
6. The following components shall be included in the ordination service.
 - a. a pastoral address on biblical ordination
 - b. the reading of the ordination charge to the candidate
 - c. the response of the candidate (by way of answered questions or a short message)
 - d. the laying on of hands and commissioning prayer by the church leaders
 - e. the celebration of the ordination by the congregation (either by a congregational time of prayer or worship, a reception line, a coffee fellowship time, or other)

The minister and the sponsor church may choose to register the newly-licensed or ordained minister with the Fellowship. The process for this is found on the FCA website at www.fcaoc.org May the Lord bless and multiply godly leaders among us!

-- Submitted by the Elders of the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies, - for thoughtful prayer and consideration for approval at the National Convention.

June, 2008