

CREDENTIALING COMPARISONS

Type	Education Requirements	Term & Renewal Criteria	Rights	Notes
Specialized Ministry License	Same educational requirements as for Licensed Minister PLUS 12 semester hours college courses in field of specialization.	1 year term Annual renewal conditions: Satisfactory service in approved ministry Compliance with MC rules Annual report to district and denomination	Under the supervision of a senior pastor ... -preach -baptize -admin communion -perform worship -marry -minister in local church -hold office not restricted to ordained ministers -vote in district & GC	This license is for paid staff ministers of a MC not otherwise credentialed who are not pursuing ordination. This license is issued at the request of the senior pastor and is not transferable to any other church.
Licensed Minister	-High School diploma (or equal) -History & Polity -Old Testament -New Testament -Biblical or Systematic Theo -Biblical Interpretation -Homiletics or Communication -Leadership -Practical Ministry Theology	1 year term Annual renewal conditions: same as above PLUS must include in annual report progress in ordination studies.	Same as above except the supervision of a senior pastor not required.	This temporary license is only for those who are pursuing ordination and are actively enrolled in courses to continue that pursuit (7 years allowed to complete ordination studies).
Ordained Minister	-BA (professional Christian ministry) OR -MA (professional Christian ministry) OR -PLI completion certificate OR -All licensed minister requirements PLUS supervised course of study including 32 sem hrs of general courses and 21 sem hrs of professional Christian ministry courses; plus counseling, evangelism and discipleship, and one course related to one's specialized area of ministry.	No term limitation Annual renewal conditions: Satisfactory service in approved ministry (no more than 3 years inactivity) Compliance with MC rules Report annually to district and denomination	Same as licensed minister except may hold office restricted to ordained ministers.	Ordination is reserved for those whose calling, gifts, and usefulness have been demonstrated and enhanced by proper training and experience.
Licensed Lay Worker	A course of studies for the specialized area of ministry.	1 year term Annual renewal conditions: Satisfactory ministry service Continue to fulfill all qualifications and duties Annual report to local church and District Executive Board	Recognition to serve in special area of ministry as approved.	This credentialing is reserved for lay persons gifted for certain ministries (e.g., prison ministry, hospital visitation, etc.).