

CALLING AND MINISTRY STUDIES

Overview

The credentialing of Church of God ministers is a ministry formation process. In this process, the church partners with the individuals in order to help them develop the abilities to fulfill their divine call and place of ministry. This developmental journey occurs through personal discovery, education, training, and becoming a credentialed minister in the Church of God. The vision and mission of the Church of God are integral contributing parts in the journey. The vision, mission, and commitment of these are found in the *Minutes* as follows:

STATEMENT OF VISION

Our vision arises from our understanding of what the sovereign God purposes to do for and through His church. The Great Commission remains our mandate from Christ.

The Church of God is to be:

1. A movement committed to the authority of Holy Scripture for faith and direction.
2. A fellowship whose worship brings God's power into the life of the church and extends that power through the lives of believers into the marketplace of life.
3. A body that is directed by the Spirit, fully understanding that baptism in the Holy Spirit is both a personal blessing and an endowment of power for witness and service in fulfilling the Great Commission.
4. A people who hunger for God, experience the presence of God, and stand in awe of His holiness as He changes believers into conformity with Christ.
5. A New Testament church which focuses on the local congregation where the pastor nurtures and leads all members to exercise spiritual gifts in ministry.
6. A church that loves all people and stands opposed to any action or policy that discriminates against any group or individual because of race, color, or nationality.
7. A movement that evidences love and concern for the hurts and loneliness of the unsaved through aggressive evangelistic, discipling, and nurturing ministries.
8. A church that is Christ-centered, people-oriented, and need-sensitive in all its programs and ministries.
9. A movement that promotes policies and ministries which reflect an open, sincere effort to remain relevant to each generation.

STATEMENT OF MISSION

The mission of the Church of God is to communicate the full gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19, 20) in the Spirit and power of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, 6, 13-18) (71st A., 2006, p. 44).

COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

(70th A., 2004, pp. 50-54)

These items reflect our core values in regard to fulfilling our mission and vision.

1. Prayer
2. Pentecostal Worship
3. World Evangelization
4. Church Planting
5. Leadership Development
6. Care
7. Interdependence

The Ministerial Internship Program is the primary means for completing this ministry formation process. In the MIP, there are two fundamental segments: (1) Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS), which is a prerequisite to the MIP, and (2) the three essential components of MIP—academic studies, seminars, and supervised practicum. The Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS) assists individuals in discovering their divine call and place in ministry and aids the church in assessing the suitability of the candidates for ministry in the Church of God. The three essential components in MIP train individuals with the beginning knowledge and skills to fulfill their call and place in ministry.

The purpose of the Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS) is twofold: (1) to help applicants determine their calling and understand the meaning and practices of ministry, and (2) to help the church assess the applicants' suitability for credentialed ministry in the Church of God. Fulfilling the twofold purpose is beneficial to the applicants and to the denomination. When the applicants realize what God has called them to do and they carry out the calling, then they are enriched personally and the church is enhanced. At the conclusion of CAMS, it is anticipated that the applicants and the state CAMS coordinators, along with members of the State Board of Ministerial Development, can determine the calling of the individuals and the applicants' suitability for ministering in the Church of God.

There are two sections to CAMS—seminars and individual study. The purposes of the seminars are, (1) to identify how the individuals know they have a divine call, (2) to explain what the meaning and practices of ministry are, and (3) to assist the applicants in determining what their divine call is and in understanding what ministry is. The seminars are attended by both applicants and spouses.

The applicants complete three Certificate In Ministerial Studies (CIMS) courses—*Knowing Your Church*, *Learning the Practices of Ministry*, and *Understanding Yourself and Others* through individual study. These three courses seek to aid the applicants in comprehending the divine call and ministry. All applicants and spouses who desire a transcript for courses completed in CAMS should contact the School of Ministry, toll free, at (877) 344-0488. An official student transcript will be prepared and sent to each CAMS applicant upon request. The fee for an official transcript is \$5.00 per transcript.

In addition, the applicants write a paper on their calling into the ministry, a paper on their theology of ministry, and a paper that summarizes their ministry identity. The spouses also write papers on their calling into the ministry and view of ministry.

The Calling And Ministry Studies (CAMS) is under the authority of the administrative bishop as part of the Ministerial Internship Program (MIP). The administrative bishop will appoint a state CAMS coordinator who serves *ex officio* on the state Ministerial Development Board. The state CAMS coordinator will organize, implement, and administer CAMS in a state.