

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XI -- MINISTERS

Section 1. Original jurisdiction in relation to ministers belongs to the Conference.

Section 2. The church membership and responsibilities of the minister shall be in accord with General Conference policies and guidelines. The pastor shall be in charge of all worship services and ceremonies conducted in the Church, unless otherwise mutually agreed. He The senior pastor/lead pastor shall be responsible for whoever occupies the pulpit.

Section 3. Any minister belonging to the Conference who refuses to carry out an order or resolution thereof shall be liable to a charge of insubordination before the Conference.

Section 4. Procedures for resolving controversies shall be in accord with Eastern Regional Conference and General Conference policies and guidelines.

Amend this article add:

Section 5. Credentials for pastoral ministry include provisional license, annual license, and life ordination and shall be issued in accordance with General Conference standards.

A. If no General Conference standards exist, the commission shall have the authority to recommend credentials and appropriate standards and guidelines to the Administrative Council for approval. Modifications to General Conference standards must be approved by the Administrative Council and the General Conference.

B. Credentials for non-pastoral church vocations shall be issued in accordance with existing General Conference standards. If no General Conference standards exist, the commission shall have the authority to recommend credentials and appropriate standards and guidelines to the Administrative Council for approval.

C. Candidates for permanent license and ordination must be able to respond affirmatively to the following questions, which shall be asked during the annual ordination service:

1. Do you believe that in seeking the office of the Christian ministry you are influenced by a sincere love for God and your desire to promote His glory and the salvation of men?
2. Do you believe that the doctrines of the Word of God as taught by the Churches of God, General Conference are correct and true?
3. Are you willing to subscribe to these doctrines, to teach them, and to defend them against every attempt to minimize their value, guarding against those things which cause division in the church, and dedicating your powers to building the church you serve as pastor?
4. Do you promise to fully cooperate and carry out all the rules and regulations, and support all the agencies and enterprises of the Conference and the General Conference?
5. If for any cause the Conference should deem it proper to recall your certificate of ordination, do you promise to deliver the same upon official request?
6. Should you determine that you can no longer publicly affirm the doctrines of the Churches of God or fully adhere to the authority of the Churches of God, will you voluntarily surrender your credentials and resign your pastorate?