FREE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA

TRACKING FOR CREDENTIALED MINISTRY

From Lay Minister's License to Ordination or Commissioning

A clear guide to the journey • Chapter 8 of The Manual

MINISTERIAL FORMATION DEPARTMENT



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"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

Credentialed ministry is both a calling and a profession.
It begins with God's call and is confirmed by the church.

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE



1	2	3	4	5
Local Church Membership	**Lay Minister License**	**Ministerial Candidate**	**Ministry Experience**	**Final Credential**
Get involved & become a member	Local board grants license	MEGAP interviews & recommendation	3 or 4 years under appointment	Commissioned or Ordained Minister

Two pathways after Ministerial Candidate

Commissioned Minister — specialized role in one local church (3 years)
Ordained Minister — pastoral leadership, available to any congregation (4 years)

DISCERNING THE CALL

Confirmation of call is like a three-legged stool — all three must be present.

1. Personal Call

You sense God's invitation to pastoral leadership. The internal dialogue and journey with God is already underway.

2. Local Church

Leaders in the local church discern and confirm that you possess the gifts and graces for credentialed leadership.

3. MEGAP

The Ministerial Education, Guidance and Placement committee affirms and recommends you for ordained or commissioned ministry.

KEY TERMS

Lay Minister	Member licensed by the local board. Can be “local” (serve only at that church) or “tracking” (entry into credentialing).
Ministerial Candidate (MC)	Approved by MEGAP and the Board of Administration. Pursuing Commissioned or Ordained ministry under conference appointment.
Commissioned Minister	Called to specialized ministry in one local church (Youth, Children & Family, Worship, etc.). 3 years supervised experience.
Ordained Minister	Called to overall pastoral leadership and available for any congregation. 4 years supervised experience + broader academic preparation.
MEGAP	Ministerial Education, Guidance and Placement Committee — interviews candidates and recommends for candidacy, commissioning, or ordination.

CHOOSING A PATH

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

- Specialized role in one local church
- Youth, Children & Family, Worship, etc.
- Normally serves as associate
- 3 years supervised experience
- One MEGAP interview after MC
- Commissioned by Bishop or appointee

ORDAINED MINISTER

- Overall pastoral leadership
- Available to any congregation in Canada
- Lead pastor or senior leadership
- 4 years supervised experience
- Two additional MEGAP interviews
- Ordained by the Bishop of the FMCIC

STEPS 1 & 2 • MEMBERSHIP TO LAY MINISTER

STEP 1 — Membership

- Get involved in a local FM congregation
- Build relationship with pastor & leaders
- Become a member of the church

STEP 2 — Lay Minister License

- Recommended by pastor / cabinet
- Interviewed by the official board
- Board grants Lay Minister's License
- Tracking LM begins foundational courses (Heart of Canadian Free Methodism & Wesleyan Theology)
- Accountability partner established
- License renewed annually

STEP 3 • BECOMING A MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE

Documents & Assignments

- Copy of Lay Minister's license
- Resume & educational transcripts
- Personal references
- Ministerial Candidate's Statement of Affirmation
- Police clearance certificate
- Accountability partner confirmation
- Reflection paper on call to ministry
- Family of Origin assignment
- Pastor's letter + education & ministry plan

The Interview Process

MEGAP Interview

Candidate meets with MEGAP

Recommendation

MEGAP recommends to the Board of Administration

BOA Approval

Board of Administration grants MC status

Conference Status

Becomes honorary (non-voting) conference member

Appointment

Appointment and continue tracking

AS A MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE

What a Ministerial Candidate can do

- Serve under conference appointment (Lead, Assistant, or Associate Pastor)
- Solemnize marriages
- Administer the sacraments
- Continue membership & vote in local church (with conflict-of-interest awareness)
- Remain under MEGAP supervision for studies and service

Ministry Experience Required

COMMISSIONED

3 years of supervised ministry under conference appointment (full-time or accumulated part-time). Retroactive credit possible on a case-by-case basis.

ORDAINED

4 years of supervised ministry experience (at least part-time) plus more extensive academic preparation.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Foundational Courses (required for all)

Heart of Canadian Free Methodism
History & polity

Wesleyan Theology
Also available online via FMC-USA

Personal & Church Stewardship
Required for both paths

Culture & the Mission of the Church
Required for both paths

Additional requirements by path

Commissioned

- Systematic Theology (3)
- Specialty electives (9)
- Foundational courses above

Ordained

- Biblical Studies (9) • Church History (3)
- Evangelism/Growth (3) • Leadership (3)
- Pastoral Theology (6) • Sys. Theology (3)
- Homiletics/Preaching (3)
- Electives (9) + foundational courses

THE FINAL STRETCH

1. **Complete Requirements**
   Finish ministry experience years and all required academic work. Submit transcripts and Minister's Statement of Affirmation.

2. **MEGAP Final Interview(s)**
   Commissioned: one interview. Ordained: two interviews (plus a reflection paper on the meaning of ordination).

3. **MEGAP Recommendation**
   MEGAP recommends the candidate for commissioning or ordination and conference membership.

4. **Board of Administration**
   The Board of Administration of the FMCIC reviews and approves the recommendation.

5. **Service of Celebration**
   The Bishop (or appointee) commissions or ordains the candidate in a public service — a time to celebrate what God has done.

TRANSFERRING INTO THE FMCIC

Ordained ministers from other denominations or Free Methodist conferences

Equivalency is the criterion

Candidates must meet both educational and service requirements required of those ordained in the FMCIC.

Pre-MEGAP Interview

An initial conversation to review background, credentials, and alignment with FMCIC ethos.

MEGAP Recommendation

MEGAP reviews and recommends transfer of standing.

Board of Administration Approval

BoA grants final approval for reception into the conference.

Presentation of Credentials

FMCiC credential is presented; foundational courses (Heart & Wesleyan Theology) are typically required.

RESOURCES & NEXT STEPS

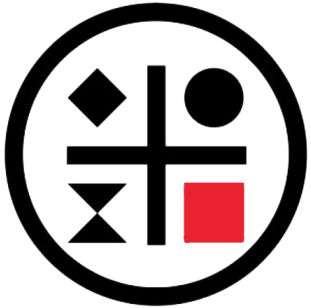
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Foundational Courses	fmcic.ca/foundational-courses
Leadership Scholarship Plan	fmcic.ca/lsp
The Manual – Chapter 8	fmcic.ca/our-ethos/the-manual
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MINISTERIAL FORMATION OFFICE

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Questions about tracking? We're here to walk with you.



FREE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA

The call is God's.

The journey is shared.

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