

Policy for Guest Minister Credentials DOVE Christian Fellowship Canada 5-6-11

Guest Credentials

DOVE Canada holds as a value that God desires for the different expressions of his church body to work together. In the early days of DOVE Canada, its leaders received help in obtaining ministry credentials from other organizations. Consequently, we will help those leaders from outside of Dove Canada who seek to be credentialed as ministers. We will use the term Guest Minister Credentials. The following are the guidelines we will follow:

Licensing

Licensing is an act of DOVE Canada in which individuals receive affirmation for their call to ministry for a one year period with an annual review. Although DOVE Canada has ultimate spiritual responsibility, the primary, “hands on”, spiritual responsibility will lie with the sponsor for the licensed individual.

The request for a ministry license would come from the individual but must come with strong references to the character and ministry of the individual. An application must be submitted to the Ontario Governing Official. If approved, a licensed minister’s card will be issued to the individual. An annual review must be completed by the individual’s sponsor and a recommendation made to the Governing Official to renew the license for another year.

Ordination

Ordination is an act of DOVE Canada in which individuals receive affirmation for their call to a lifetime of ministry as they serve faithfully in ministry. Although DOVE Canada has ultimate spiritual responsibility, the primary, “hand on”, spiritual responsibility will lie with the sponsor for the ordained individual.

In most cases individuals will be licensed for ministry for a season of time before the recognition of ordination. An individual should be involved in active ministry for at least three years before ordination. An application would be submitted to the Ontario Governing Official. If approved, an ordained minister’s card and certificate will be issued.

An annual review must be completed by the individual’s sponsor and a report given to the Governing Official.

Performing Marriages in Ontario

If an individual is approved by DOVE Canada with the status of ordained minister, they can request the Ontario governing official to apply to the provincial government to register the individual to perform marriages. This application must be requested and will

not automatically be done for the individual. All costs related to this registration are the responsibility of the ordained individual.

Sponsor

The primary spiritual responsibility for the accountability of the licensed and ordained individuals will lie with the sponsor. The governing official must approve of the sponsor as well as the applicant. The sponsor must fulfill all reviews, reports and requests for information as required by DOVE Canada. In most cases the sponsor will be from outside of DOVE Canada.

The sponsor is accepting the fact that they function in a pastoral role with the credentialed individual. The sponsor should have reputable Christian character and is in agreement with the values of DOVE International. They should have a current 'fathering' role and be presently speaking into the life of the individual applying for ministry credentials.

Qualifications for Appointment

To be appointed as licensed or ordained by DOVE Canada, individuals must meet the following criteria:

1. The individual must have a relational commitment to a local church as well as practical accountability to their sponsor.
2. Ministry Credentials are appointed based on demonstration of a calling and desire for ministry.
3. Strong character and personal integrity must be evident in the individual and multiple character references must be provided.
4. The individual must have fruitful ministry experience.
5. Bible college/seminary is not a pre-requisite, but is sometimes helpful depending on the ministry area desired.
6. The individual will complete a written application and the DOVE Canada Apostolic Council will consider this application in a timely fashion.

Term of Appointment

Those that are licensed with DOVE Canada shall have their license renewed on an annual basis. Those who are ordained shall be ordained permanently barring dismissal, transfer or retirement.

Cost

The cost to be licensed or ordained by DOVE Canada is \$150 annually. This is to be paid by the end of January of each year. Mid-year approvals will be pro-rated.

Dismissal of Credentialed Ministers

The DOVE Canada Apostolic Council shall have authority to dismiss individuals who are licensed or ordained for ministry. The dismissal of an individual could occur for the following reasons:

1. The individual requests that the ordination be terminated or transfer to another church organization.
2. The individual is found to be involved in some form of immoral or unethical behavior; or propagating beliefs that are outside the DOVE International core values or Christian orthodoxy. This shall include but not be limited to...causing division among churches or individuals, moral failure, irreconcilable disputes, disorderly conduct, apostasy, not walking in accountability with their personal life and ministry, or other faults as determined by the Governing Official or the DOVE Canada Apostolic Council.
3. Individuals will have no right to appeal the dismissal as a Credentialed Guest Minister.

Retired Credentialed Ministers

Retired ministers will have the option of keeping their ordination active as long as they desire to use it.

Transfer of Ministry Credentials

DOVE Canada will accept the transfer of credentials from other networks of churches. For a minister to transfer their credentials into DOVE Canada as a guest they must meet the following conditions.

1. The individual must submit in writing a request for transfer to DOVE Canada listing the reasons for the transfer.
2. The individual must provide two character references within the family of churches they are transferring from.
3. The family of churches the individual is transferring from must send a letter of transfer releasing the individual.

Likewise DOVE Canada will transfer guest ministry credentials as requested to another family of churches if the individual is in good standing