

**Policy for Ministers Credentials**  
**DOVE Christian Fellowship Canada**  
**5-6-11**

**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. This affirmation gives them the authority to perform the duties of their office and any other ministerial functions. DOVE Canada is spiritually responsible for all licensed persons and their spiritual training.

The request for licensing a person for ministry would come from the eldership of the partner church they attend. In the event of church planting, apostolic leadership may initiate licensing the leader of the new church. 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 will be completed by the church apostolic overseer. The annual review may include the renewing of the license for the next year.

There could also be continuing education requirements which could take the form of seminars, a leadership school, classes, self-study courses, workshops, etc. The costs of this training would be the responsibility of the licensed individual.

**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 the DOVE Canada family of churches. This affirmation gives them the authority to perform the duties of their office and any other ministerial functions. The DOVE Canada Apostolic Council is spiritually responsible for all ordained persons and their spiritual training.

In most cases individuals will be licensed for ministry for a season of time before the recognition of ordination. Ordination is not synonymous with an appointment to eldership. The individual should be involved in active ministry for at least two years before ordination. Requests for ordination could come from the local church eldership, the individual, or the Apostolic Council. An application would be submitted to the Ontario Governing Official. If approved, an ordained minister's card and certificate will be issued.

There will be an annual review for each ordained person by their overseer on the DOVE Canada Apostolic Council. There could also be continuing education requirements which could take the form of seminars, a leadership school, classes, self-study courses, workshops, etc. The costs of this training would be the responsibility of the ordained individual.

**Performing Marriages in Ontario**

If an individual is approved by DOVE Canada with the status of ordained, they can request the Ontario governing official to apply to the Province of Ontario to register the

individual to perform marriages. This application must be requested and will not automatically be done for the individual.

### **Qualifications for Appointment**

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

1. The number one requirement we are looking for is a relational and teachable accountability to the individual's local church as well as to the Apostolic Council.
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 in small groups and practical interaction with people.
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 Apostolic Council will consider this application in a timely fashion.

### **Term of Appointment**

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

### **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 within DOVE Canada 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 Canada/DOVE International core values. 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 Apostolic Council.
3. Individuals will have the right to appeal the dismissal to the Apostolic Council and the meeting for appeal of shall be documented in writing. The option of a second court of appeal is to the DOVE International Apostolic Council. Likewise this appeal shall be documented in writing.

### **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 denominations or networks of churches. We recognize that God places people in his body and that at times God speaks to individuals and directs them to move from one family of churches to another. For a minister to be transferred into DOVE Christian Fellowship Canada 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 and commending them to DOVE Canada.

DOVE Canada also recognizes that at times some of its credentialed ministers might want to transfer to another family of churches. If the individual is in good standing, this will be done with blessing.