
EFCA WEST

Glorifying God by Multiplying Healthy Churches Among All People

2111 GEER ROAD, SUITE 510 • TURLOCK, CA 95382

PHONE: 209.667.5789 • FAX: 209.667.5896

E-MAIL: INFO@EFCAWEST.ORG • WEBSITE: WWW.EFCAWEST.ORG

To: All Credentialing Candidates
EFCA West churches and ministries

From: Paul Schliep
Director of Credentialing & Theological Education

On behalf of the staff and leadership of EFCA West, I commend you for your desire to pursue an EFCA credential. The purpose of such a credential is to affirm God's call upon your life, to verify that you meet the qualifications and standards for ministry, approve you for ministerial service in the EFCA and to provide legal status in the exercise of your ministry.

Below is a brief outline of the process which will begin upon receipt of your completed preliminary application (below):

1. You will receive a packet of materials from the EFCA West office that spells out the various requirements involved in obtaining a credential.
2. You will be required to write a doctrinal thesis. Clear guidelines for the thesis will be provided.
3. Your thesis will be reviewed by your assigned credentialing council chairman (an experienced EFC pastor). This review is designed to help you clarify your beliefs and prepare you for the credentialing council interview.
4. Your council chairman will lead a small group of pastors and laymen who will interview you for the purpose of examining your doctrinal beliefs and ministry. The credentialing council interview takes 2-3 hours for licensing candidates and 3-4 hours for permanent credential candidates. Please work closely with your council chairman to set up a time that works for your schedule and the schedules of the council members.
5. Your part of the process* generally takes about a year; not including the scheduling requirements of your council. Your council will be recorded and transcribed and included with the other documents forwarded to the EFCA Board of Ministerial Standing in Minneapolis for their review and *final approval* of your credentialing request. This generally takes an additional 3-6 months.

***Note:** Some have found it helpful to meet on a regular basis with others who are going thru the credentialing process for the purposes of (a) thinking through the doctrinal issues, (b) clarifying your own understanding and (c) enhancing your ability to articulate your beliefs in preparation for the council. If you're interested in being part of such a group please contact me at paul@efcawest.org.



STEVE HIGHFILL • Regional Director

EFCA
WEST

TOM GARASHA • Pastoral Care/Coaching DAVE PAGE • Church Planting WIL REGIER • Church Health/Fitness
PAUL SCHLIEP • Credentialing/Theological Education



EFCA WEST PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FOR MINISTERIAL CREDENTIAL

THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AMERICA



Name: _____ E-mail address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Home Address: _____ Tel: () _____

City: _____ State/Zip Code: _____

Current qualifying EFCA West church membership (name of church/city): _____

Currently called to/serving (church or institution): _____

Address: _____

Position: _____

This position is () paid () volunteer

How long have you been in this position? _____ Do you serve in this position 30 hours or more per week? _____

¹Which credential are you applying for*? (Please check one.)

- 3-Year License Leading to a Certificate of Ordination
- 3-Year License Leading to a Certificate of Christian Ministry
- Certificate of Ordination (3-year license is a prerequisite)
- Certificate of Christian Ministry (3-year license is a prerequisite)
- Transfer of Ordination: please list current ordination credentials (ordaining agency and date of ordination) _____

For EFCA West office use only:
Date rec'd _____

Note: The Transfer of Ordination is a **re-ordination** requiring the same standards as the Certificate of Ordination.

- Lay Ministry License

What is your educational background or what training have you received for the ministry for which you are applying?

- Check if you are currently in or have completed a Viae or Gateway course. Date of completion or anticipated completion _____

Have either you or your spouse been divorced? _____ If yes, a separate procedure is required to determine if you are eligible for licensing. Please contact our office for additional information. Telephone 209.667.5789 or e-mail info@efcawest.org

Mail this form to:

Credentials
EFCA West
2111 Geer Rd., Ste 510
Turlock, CA 95382

* Two items must accompany this application:

1. A letter from you stating your desire and reasons for wanting an EFCA credential. It should be written on church stationery, addressed to the Board of Ministerial Standing and sent in care of the EFCA West office. EFCA West will, in turn, request a letter of recommendation from your church leadership and forward a packet of materials to you detailing the various requirements for credentialing.
2. The processing fee of \$100 (for a 3-year license) or \$150 (for a permanent credential). It is expected that your church will cover this cost. **Please make check payable to EFCA West DBOMS.** This fee can be reduced for church planters or others for whom the cost may be prohibitive.

¹ See the *Steps Toward Credentialing* booklet for a full description of the licenses granted by the Evangelical Free Church of America. **Please note item E. on page 4: "Each credential is the property of the Evangelical Free Church of America and is given to the candidate "in trust."**