

LICENSED MINISTER

A Licensed Minister's credential is a credential which is provided to persons who have some ministry experience but need further experience in order to be fully established. Such persons are authorized to perform all sacerdotal services. There is no difference in the legal standing between a licensed minister and an ordained minister as credentialed by International Ministerial Fellowship. Both are authorized to perform all sacerdotal services. However, a licensed minister, while authorized to perform sacerdotal services, is not required by IMF to be performing them on a regular or ongoing basis.

ORDAINED MINISTER

An Ordained Minister's credential is provided to those persons who have "an established and proven ministry." Such persons are not only authorized to perform sacerdotal services, but are also required to be performing sacerdotal services on a regular or ongoing basis.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

An Associate Member (Non-Credentialed) of IMF is entitled to all the rights and privileges accorded to a general member. Ordained or licensed clergy who join IMF as Associate Members are accorded the same respect as an IMF member with their clerical standing. Although the Associate Member may be credentialed by their own denomination, we honor them and the ministry God has established through their faithful service to Christ.

Note:

Normally a person will serve for one year with a Commission to Preach credential before being considered for the Licensed Minister's credential. Likewise, a candidate will serve at least two years as a Licensed Minister before being considered for the Ordained Minister's credential.

IMF is a member of the National Association of Evangelicals, the Association of International Mission Services and the National Religious Broadcasters.



Pastor Frank Masserano
IMF General Secretary

Frank Masserano is a graduate of Memphis State University, Asbury Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary. He has done additional graduate study at the University of Minnesota. He has served as a pastor, counselor and development officer. He was Director of Special Projects at Oral Roberts University in the Development Department in the areas of foundations and government

grants and for a number of years was an owner and officer in several business ventures.

Mr. Masserano has served on the pastoral staff of some of the larger churches in the nation, including Mount Paran Church of God, Atlanta, Georgia, and the Valley Cathedral, Phoenix, Arizona. He is a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and served as a therapist and Director of Operations at the Harley and Nelson Clinic in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has served on the boards of several community organizations.

Mr. Masserano is founder and serves as the General Secretary of International Ministerial Fellowship (a Minnesota Corporation), which is an association of independent evangelical churches and ministers with over 1,250+ ministry partners in the U.S.A. and 51 foreign countries. IMF is an Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agency and serves as a Mission Sending Agency.



IMF

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International Ministerial Fellowship®



CREDENTIALS AVAILABLE...

Below are some of the criteria for consideration and approval of membership and credentialing:

LAY TRACK

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN WORKER

Certified Christian Worker is a credential which is issued to lay persons who are called by God as helpers. They are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services.

CERTIFIED LAY PASTOR

A Certified Lay Pastor's credential is provided to one who is called to Christian service and labors along side a senior clergy person, makes hospital calls, prays for the sick, provides pastoral care and counseling, but does not preach, teach or administer the sacraments (ordinances) except under direct supervision of a clergy person. IMF members who are credentialed as a certified Lay Pastor have successfully completed the IMF approved Certified Lay Pastors Ministries Course.

CLERGY TRACK

COMMISSION TO PREACH

Commission to Preach is a credential which is provided to persons who have a call to Christian service, but little ministry experience. Such persons are authorized to preach and to assist a senior pastor or other staff pastors in any way that they can, in order to get exposure and in-service training in Christian ministry. However, they are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services.

SPECIAL MINISTRY LICENSE

The Special Ministry License is reserved for those individuals who minister in areas of special skill and serve in worship, fine arts, Christian counseling and other approved areas of ministry. Their main focus is not a preaching ministry. They are authorized to perform all sacerdotal services which they may not be performing on a regular basis, but do perform them on an ongoing basis from time to time as they serve in worship, the administration of the sacraments (ordinances), teaching, preaching and other areas of clergy responsibility.

INTERNATIONAL

MINISTERIAL

FELLOWSHIP

IMF is a fellowship of evangelical Christian ministers and churches with an emphasis upon the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church today. It was originally organized in 1958 and presently has its offices in the greater Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

IMF's member ministers come from varied denominational backgrounds, but all endorse the IMF Statement of Faith. All have been recommended to us by local churches, ministers, and/or other Christian ministers and laymen who are familiar with their ministry calling and gifts.

Members of IMF have a wide variety of theological and Biblical training. Many are seminary graduates. Others are Bible college graduates, and some have received training through theological education by extension or mentoring at the local church level. All have demonstrated a level of theological proficiency and have been approved for membership by our Credentials Committee. We do not believe that God limits His call to those who have had the opportunity to attend seminary. Therefore, we offer an alternative ministerial track based on experience and other criteria. In evaluating the candidates, we look at their spiritual life, Bible knowledge and ministry experience, including formal education and theological training. Many of our members hold Bible college or seminary degrees and some in both independent and denominational settings.

Our goal is to love, serve, encourage and help enable those who serve in front line Christian ministries. We believe in recognizing the gifts and calling of God in the lives of all who serve Him. Therefore, we license and ordain women as well as men. It is our desire to bring God's word to the nations, and we accomplish this as a missions sending agency providing administrative services to 80 missionaries serving as our ministry partners in 51 countries around the world. We also welcome those serving as chaplains in the military, hospitals, prisons and hospices by offering ecclesiastical endorsement to qualified candidates. In all, we embrace more than 1250+ ministry partners in this Fellowship.

Scripture admonishes, "Study to show yourself approved under God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth," (2 Timothy 2:15). Therefore, we offer our members assistance in evaluating their continuing educational needs for present ministry as well as future ministry goals.

*For the purpose of maintaining unity,
IMF has adopted the following . . .*
STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe the Bible to be the divinely inspired, undivided, infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and redemptive death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is biblically essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling and empowerment the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life and through whom the Spiritual enablements are operational in the Church today.
6. We believe that God has provided to desiring believers an endowment of Spiritual power for the evangelization of the lost.
7. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
8. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

MEMBER PROFILE . . .

We serve independent Evangelical and Spirit-led Christian churches and ministers serving in independent and denominational churches.

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Senior pastors of moderate to smaller sized independent churches.
Staff ministers who serve in independent or denominational settings.

Messianic Rabbis
Directors of para-church organizations
Military (active and reserve), Veterans Affairs, Prison,
Hospital, and Hospice Chaplains
Evangelists
Missionaries
Ministers of Music, Fine Arts, and Christian Counselors
Directors of social service ministries
Lay ministers in prisons and hospitals
Lay ministers serving local churches

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

REQUIREMENTS

1. You have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
2. You accept the Bible written and undivided as your guide for living and are in agreement with the IMF Statement of Faith .
3. You have a spiritual call to Christian ministry.
4. You commit yourself to a life of spiritual growth and service and the statement of core values.
5. You evidence your call to Christian ministry in your life, Bible study, theological training and Christian service.
6. You will faithfully and consistently support the Fellowship as led by the Spirit of God.
7. You complete the application process and interview successfully.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

IMF's quarterly report process is a tracking system that allows ministers to work toward credential upgrades. The reports serve as a check and balance system to ensure that our members are involved in ministry on a consistent basis.

SERVICES . . .

1. A spiritual covering for you.
2. Fellowship, mutual nurturing and encouragement.
3. The Gathering magazine published several times a year contains an editorial from the President or one of our Fellowship elders, missions report, articles on chaplain ministries, prayer, members outreach services, national or regional gatherings, legal and tax issues, retirement programs, introduction of new members, youth and family ministry, women's ministry and networking opportunities, plus helpful information from counselors and consultants.
4. Consultation and recommendations for continuing education with approved Bible correspondence sources, Bible colleges, seminaries and other Christian professional organizations nationwide.
5. An elective group insurance program provided by the NAE for qualifying churches and their employees who need cost-efficient group health protection.
6. Consultation for qualifying ministers who desire a Sheltered Account 403(b) and need a reliable program in lieu of or in addition to Social Security.
7. Teleconsulting regarding ministry organizational structure, legal, accounting, tax exemption options, qualifications, and professional resources available from various sources.
8. Ecclesiastical endorsement to qualifying candidates for military chaplaincy with Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, prison systems, hospitals, and hospices.
9. Telecounseling for IMF members regarding marriage and family problems, staffed by a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy or other qualified Christian Counselors.
10. Recommended development and fund raising programs for churches and Christian institutions.
11. Mission Sending Agency: IMF is a Mission Sending Agency and provides guidance, counseling, training and appropriate support services to its overseas missionaries.
12. World Wide Missions: Opportunities to help sponsor native pastors, evangelists or IMF missionaries in other countries.
13. National Assembly: IMF sponsors a biennial "Come, Meet the Family Conference" in the Minneapolis area.
14. Consultation and networking on ministry-related issues and programs .
15. An Intercessory Prayer Group available to all members in response to requests for ministry and personal matters in need of urgent or continuing prayer.