



OPEN BIBLE EAST

PATHWAY TO CREDENTIALS

A ministerial credential does not make you something different than who you are. What it does is recognize your call, affirms it to others, opens doors of ministry opportunity because of the credibility a credential offers, and brings you into a circle of belonging with encouragement, resource, and accountability.

Credentialed Open Bible ministers are a family committed to faithful stewardship as followers of Christ and leaders submitted to Him.

THE CREDENTIAL LEVELS

LEVEL 1

BASIC MINISTERIAL CREDENTIAL

Our entry level Basic Ministerial Credential with Open Bible Churches is the beginning in achieving competencies that are instrumental to effective, faithful, and fruitful ministerial leadership.

LEVEL 2

CERTIFIED MINISTERIAL CREDENTIAL

A Certified Ministerial Credential is for ministers with fruitful seasoned experience and faithful developed ministerial competencies.

LEVEL 3

ORDINATION

Ordination is our highest classification of ministerial credential in Open Bible Churches. Ordination is not applied for but is conferred by Open Bible Churches upon recommendation of the regional board, in recognition of a minimum of three years of faithful service and fruitfulness in diligent leadership, ministerial effectiveness, and integrity in all relationships, with an exemplary attitude as an Open Bible Minister.



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THE SEVEN-STEP CREDENTIAL PATHWAY

STEP 1

○ GETTING ACQUAINTED

- The start of the process is when a ministerial credential applicant submits a Getting Acquainted Form from the regional/national website.
- Regional leadership will review the submission and determine if the applicant can move forward in the process. A follow-up conversation may be needed to answer additional questions.
- Possible follow-up questions might include questions about previous marriages, doctrinal beliefs, or other general concerns.

STEP 2

○ FORMAL APPLICATION

- If approved to move forward, regional leadership will send an application email with the credential application steps and a link to the Credential Minister Application Form.
- The applicant must complete this form in its entirety and submit the \$85 application fee before it can be processed.

STEP 3

○ REFERENCES AND BACKGROUND CHECK

- Regional leadership will review the application and send reference emails to the corresponding references listed on the application (pastoral, employer, & individual).
- Educational Transcripts need to be submitted.
- A comprehensive background check will be required. The applicant must give permission for the background checks to be completed.

STEP 4

○ PERSONALITY PROFILE

- A Uniquely You Profiler (\$18 cost) will be completed by the applicant, and the results need to be emailed to the region. A Uniquely You Profiler helps assess the personality and spiritual gifting of the applicant. This will be used to help find the right fit for ministry service.

STEP 5

NEW MINISTERS ORIENTATION

- Regional leadership will send a new minister orientation email to the applicant along with instructions on accessing the Acquire Course via Pathwright.com.
- New Minister Orientation Courses must be completed in order to advance in the process.
- Additional courses may be required, such as Hermeneutics and Homiletics, depending on the applicant's educational background.

STEP 6

DOCTRINAL ASSESSMENT

- The Doctrinal Assessment helps to assess the applicant's doctrinal stance to check for compatibility with Open Bible Churches.
- Regional leadership will send the doctrine examination email to the applicant.
- Regional leadership will send a separate email with the current password for that month.
- Regional leadership will score the exam.

STEP 7

INTERVIEW

- Regional leadership will schedule an interview with a designated credentialing committee.
- The Credential Interview Committee will forward their recommendation to the Regional Board for approval.

WHAT'S NEXT

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- Once approved, the National Office will inform the applicant of their credential, provide welcome information, along with a recommended prescription for upgrade.
 - Regional leadership will assign the newly credentialed minister a mentor to help assist them in moving forward.
 - A new minister's certificate and a new credential card will be sent to the Regional Office. A date for public conferral with the new minister will be scheduled.
 - It is requested that all credentialed ministers participate in Open Bible events to help stay connected with Open Bible and other Open Bible Ministers.