

# Membership Rostering Requirements

## Professional Clergy

All professional clergy rostering levels are authorized to perform sacerdotal (priestly) services.

### 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.

#### Requirements

- Meet the general requirements for general membership. Be recommended for ordination by your pastor, church elders or other approved religious leaders.
- Be recommended by your peers in Christian ministry.
- Demonstrate a level of biblical and theological proficiency.
- Have an established and proven ministry (this may include a transfer of ordination from another recognized church, fellowship or denomination).
- Be performing sacerdotal services on a regular or ongoing basis.
- Other criteria as determined by the Membership Rostering Review Board.

### LICENSED MINISTER

A Licensed Minister's credential is provided to persons who have some biblical and theological training ministry experience but need further knowledge or experience in order to be fully established. Such persons are authorized to perform all sacerdotal services.

#### Requirements

- Meet the general requirements for general membership.
- Be recommended for licensing by your pastor or another pastor of an established congregation.
- Demonstrate an acceptable level of biblical and theological proficiency.
- Be recommended for licensing by your peers in Christian ministry.
- Other criteria as determined by the Membership Rostering Review Board.
- Normally, a person will serve at least two years with a Licensed Minister's credential before being considered for the Ordained Minister's credential.

## SPECIAL MINISTRY LICENSE

A Special Ministry License is provided to persons who have a clear call to Christian ministry in the local church or a recognized para-church organization who do not have a call to pulpit ministry, but serve in directly-related support ministry with biblical and theological education, demonstrating spiritual gifts and ministry skills under recognized ministry leadership. They are authorized to perform all sacerdotal services under the authority and leadership of their Senior Pastor of the local church.

### Requirements:

- Meet the general requirements for general membership.
- Be recommended for Special Ministry License by your pastor or another pastor of an established congregation.
- Demonstrate an acceptable level of biblical and theological knowledge.
- Be recommended for Special Ministry License by your peers in Christian ministry.
- Other criteria as determined by the Membership Rostering Review Board.

## COMMISSIONED MINISTER

The Commissioned Minister endorsement is for those who have some biblical and theological education or training, who serve a church or in evangelism, outreach ministries or community service organizations under recognized ministry leadership or mentoring. They are authorized to perform all sacerdotal services.

### Requirements:

- Meet the general requirements for general membership.
- Be recommended for credentialing by your pastor or another pastor of an established congregation.
- Demonstrate an acceptable level of biblical and theological proficiency.
- Be recommended for licensing by your peers in Christian ministry.
- Other criteria as determined by the Membership Rostering Review Board.

## CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN WORKER

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

### Requirements:

- Meet the general requirements for general membership.
- Be recommended to be a Christian Worker by your pastor or another pastor of an established congregation.
- Be recommended to be a Christian Worker by your peers in Christian ministry.
- Other criteria as determined by the Membership Rostering Review Board.

# Chaplaincy Options

## MILITARY CHAPLAINCY

### Requirements

- The person holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- The person holds a Master of Divinity degree from an approved seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)
- The person has reviewed and approved our doctrine, policies and church history
- The person has completed at least one unit (preferably three) of CPE
- The person has been credentialed for professional ministry to include preaching, administering the Sacraments/Ordinances and church administration
- The person has successfully completed the general membership and professional clergy requirements of IMF

## CIVILIAN CHAPLAINCY

### Requirements

- The person holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- The person holds a Master of Divinity degree from an approved seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)
- The person has reviewed and approved our doctrine, policies and church history
- The person has completed minimum of three units of CPE
- The person has been credentialed for professional ministry to include preaching, administering the Sacraments/Ordinances and church administration
- The person has successfully completed the general membership and clergy requirements of IMF

# Other Membership Options

## ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Non-Credentialed members hold general member status. They are included in our membership but are not authorized by IMF to perform sacerdotal services. They may participate in all issues referred to the general membership by the Board of Directors for vote and are welcome to participate in all activities sponsored by IMF. They qualify to receive all support services as offered to all members by the Fellowship.

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. 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.

We have made many friends over the years working across denominational lines. In some instances, a membership in IMF has been transitional for several years while the member works toward full ordination in their own denomination. Other times circumstances prevent the candidate from pursuing ordination in their own denomination and we are able to serve their denominational church and the member in a special role for a longer period of time. We are thankful that we are able to serve in whatever situation best meets their needs. Often when they have accomplished personal goals that might require them to otherwise leave IMF, they choose to continue a relationship with us as an Associate Member because they know we love, honor and desire to cooperate in whatever way we can. IMF sees itself as a good “team player” in the Body of Christ.

Also, we often have Christian businessmen who want to be a part of what we are doing, but do not feel called as a clergy person and prefer to affiliate as an Associate Member. We welcome them. We need them and their business knowledge to help us chart the course for this ministry. It takes many—praying, giving and going—to accomplish the Great Commission.