

GUIDELINES FOR THE LICENSING PAPER

This paper is required for ministerial license application. Once approved, this license will endorse you as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

The purpose of this paper is to give you an opportunity to articulate your understanding of your own life, faith, ministry, and the Evangelical Covenant Church in an interrelated way. It will assist the conference Committee on Ministerial Standing to get to know you via written means. It will be used as a basis for discussion in your interview with the conference committee.

Answer the questions thoughtfully and honestly, but don't try to say everything you think about the explicit or implicit doctrinal questions. You are "presenting yourself" and are not expected to be an expert on anyone's theology but your own. Use your own words in completing your responses. Biblical and theological references may be cited but do not include extensive quotes.

Your paper is to be 6-8 pages in length, single-spaced, and the pages should be numbered. Use 12-point Times New Roman font. Please make sure to type your name on the top, right-hand corner of each page. Write out each question in full, then your answer. Use a minimum of one half page per question and a maximum of one page on any one question. A part of this exercise is to demonstrate your ability to concentrate on the salient points and to express your thoughts succinctly. Read through all the questions before you begin.

Prior to writing the paper:

- Complete the Covenant Minister's Profile Form online through CovConnect.
- Review your job description and have it ready to bring to your interview with the conference committee on ministerial standing.
- Ask for two letters of reference to be sent to your conference office prior to your interview with the conference committee. One may be from a member of your church; the other from a colleague.
- Read the documents listed on the license application that you are asked to check off.
- Read Covenant Affirmations: This We Believe by Donald C. Frisk, available from the Covenant Bookstore (<http://covbooks.com/>). *Note: This is different than the short version of Covenant Affirmations included in your license packet.*
- Read the Covenant Resource Paper entitled, "The Evangelical Covenant Church and the Bible," which may be found online at www.covchurch.org.
- Read the book Living Faith: Reflections on Covenant Affirmations available from the Covenant Bookstore (<http://covbooks.com/>).
- Read the documents "A Biblical and Theological Basis for Women in Ministry" and "Called and Gifted," which may be found online at www.covchurch.org.
- Read the Covenant's 1996 Resolution on Human Sexuality, the Human Sexuality Guidelines for Covenant Ministers, and the Human Sexuality Paper, which may be found online at www.covchurch.org.
- Read the Six Fold Test and the 2008 Resolution on Racial Righteousness, which may be found online at www.covchurch.org.
- Prepare a 5-10 minute devotional and testimony of your faith journey. Please use a particular passage of scripture or life verse to both describe your spiritual journey and to show how you use scripture. Be prepared to deliver this devotional at your interview.

Please bring with you to your interview:

- A copy of your paper (please reread it prior to your interview)
- Your Bible

- Your updated Covenant Minister's Profile Form
- A copy of your current job description

The Interview:

Dress appropriately for this professional review by your peers. Be prepared to expand on the questions you have answered in your paper. Also, be prepared to reflect on any other documents that are required reading ahead of time. If recommended, your license will be approved at the next Covenant Annual Meeting.

QUESTIONS

1. What events in your family of origin were significant in creating you to be the person you are today?
2. How do you discipline yourself to abide in Christ and grow in his grace and knowledge? How are you taking care of yourself in a way that means you are not passing along your pain and insecurities to others in your care?
3. You have chosen to serve in the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). What has led you to that decision?
4. What is your theology of scripture? How does this inform your faith and practice of ministry?
5. As a denomination, we hold distinctive theological positions for an evangelical body. Articulate how you will embrace these particular ECC views:
 - a. **Commitment to Both Believer and Infant Baptism:** Holy Baptism is viewed as a sacrament in the ECC. Describe your theological position on baptism. The ECC requires all pastors to be willing to baptize both infants and believers. Are you prepared to do this? How do you explain the difference between infant baptism and child dedication to someone who asks?
 - b. **Sacramental Nature of Communion:** Holy Communion is viewed as a sacrament in the ECC. Describe your theological position on the Lord's Supper.
 - c. **Gender Equality in Leadership:** The ECC supports the gifting and calling of all God's people, recognizing that both women and men may serve in all roles in the church. Describe your theological perspective on women in pastoral leadership. State ways you will support the ECC position. How will you advocate for colleagues who are not accepted equally?
 - d. **Human Sexuality.** The ECC's position on human sexuality is: celibacy in singleness, faithfulness in a heterosexual marriage. Describe your theological perspective on human sexuality. How will you provide pastoral care while also supporting and teaching the ECC's position regarding human sexuality?
 - e. **Atonement's Origination in Divine Love:** P.P. Waldenstrom's theological work on the Atonement dramatically influenced the ECC's position on this issue (refer to Frisk's *Covenant Affirmations*). How does this inform your presentation of the gospel?
 - f. **Freedom in Christ:** The reality of freedom in Christ is one of the six affirmations of the ECC. The ECC respects the importance of biblical and theological inquiry under the affirmation of Covenant freedom. What is your understanding of that freedom? What are its limits and responsibilities?
 - g. **Commitment to Racial Righteousness.** The ECC is committed to moving forward in the area of racial righteousness and multiethnic ministry. Reflect on the biblical foundations for this commitment. In what ways will you move forward personally on this journey and how will you lead and teach others in your ministry context?
6. What are the ways you intend to continue to develop in your understanding of the ECC and connect with other colleagues in the ministerial community?