

Know Your Conference



Ministerial licensing in the ECC begins at the conference level. The conference office staff in each of the Covenant's eleven regions, as well as Serve Globally, are equipped to help you navigate the process. Visit CovChurch.org/conferences for your conference office contact information.

Benefits of Licensure

- Holding a license in the Covenant connects you to the wider community of Covenant pastors and provides you with a structure of accountability, care, and support.
- By receiving a license in the ECC, your call is authenticated by the broader church.
- Holding a license may allow you to take advantage of the clergy tax benefit. Consult a tax professional for details.
- Licensed ministers may take full advantage of the resources made available through the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence initiative. Visit CovChurch.org/spe for upcoming opportunities and full eligibility requirements.

Ordered Ministry of the ECC

8303 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631

Phone: (773) 583-3211

Website: CovChurch.org/vocational-ministry

Email: ministry@covchurch.org



Ordered Ministry of the ECC



A Brief Guide to Ministerial Licensing



An Overview

THANK YOU for your interest in licensure in the Evangelical Covenant Church!

The Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) grants a ministerial license to persons who are called to serve in Covenant churches and other approved ministries. Licensure is reserved for those who, by demonstration of character and gifts and by virtue of place of service, require credentials in order to perform pastoral ministry.

This brochure outlines the requirements for receiving a ministerial license in the ECC and explains the steps involved in receiving a first-time license. For information on receiving a permanent credential, such as ordination, commissioning, or consecration, please contact the Ordered Ministry.

There are three license types in the ECC:

- Ministry License (ML)
- Bi-vocational Ministry License (BVL)
- Global Service License (GSL)



WHICH LICENSE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

MINISTRY LICENSE (ML)

- Applicant must be paid for at least twenty hours per week.
- Applicant must demonstrate completion of four theological courses within eight years.
- If applicant has not received theological degree from North Park Theological Seminary or Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos, must enroll in Covenant Orientation.
- Appropriate license for those in process toward a permanent credential such as Ordination to Word and Sacrament, Ordination to Word and Service, or Commissioning
- May be renewed indefinitely
- Requires enrollment in mandatory 403(b) plan
- Requires maintenance of elements of good standing (including payment of annual dues)

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTRY LICENSE (BVL)

- For those in ministry who are volunteers, part time, or those who are serving full time but whose main source of income is from secular employment
- Requires an annual report on readings chosen from the Bi-vocational Ministers' Reading List
- Requires completion of Covenant Orientation's Vocational Excellence class within two years
- May be renewed indefinitely
- Requires maintenance of elements of good standing (including payment of annual dues)

GLOBAL SERVICE LICENSE (GSL)

- For those called to serve as global personnel, who are not commissioned or ordained
- Contact Serve Globally for more information: serve.globally@covchurch.org.
- Requires maintenance of elements of good standing (including payment of annual dues)



6 STEPS TO BECOMING LICENSED

1 In order to receive a license in the Evangelical Covenant Church, you must:

- Be a member of a Covenant church
- Have a call to a Covenant church or approved ministry (such as military or institutional chaplaincy, para-church ministry, etc.)
- Contact your conference office to verify which license you qualify for and request that a pre-screening packet be sent to you.

2 Complete all the items in the pre-screening packet and return them to your conference office with all applicable fees. The Ordered Ministry office will email you a link to complete

the online psychological assessment and the criminal record screening.

- Disclosure form
- Invoice form

3 Upon completion and evaluation, the license packet will be sent. Read all of the resources in the license packet and return the following items to your conference:

- Covenant Orientation application (if applicable)
- Minister's Profile Form (CovConnect)
- Signed policy on baptism
- Licensing paper
- Completed and signed license application
- Guidestone 403(b) enrollment forms

4 You will be interviewed by your conference committee on ministerial standing. You must receive its recommendation before receiving your license. You may be asked to rewrite a portion of your licensing paper.

5 The conference office will send all of your license paperwork to the Ordered Ministry, where it is kept on file. You will then be sent an interim license certificate, which allows you to perform ministerial functions in the interim period before your license is approved at the Covenant Annual Meeting.

6 The final approval of your license will be voted on for recommendation by:

- Your conference ministerial association
- Your conference annual meeting
- The Board of the Ordered Ministry
- The Covenant Ministerium
- The Covenant Annual Meeting

7 If approved, you will receive your first-time license certificate in July, following the Covenant Annual Meeting. The license will remain in effect through June 30 of the following year. Expect to receive a license renewal application from your conference office in the spring.