

**WORLD HARVEST MINISTERS
NETWORK**
LICENSING & ORDINATION HANDBOOK



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PREFACE

We believe it is God alone who calls, anoints and appoints an individual into ministry. As such, the World Harvest Ministers Network is merely an earthly witness of a Divine work. We do not believe there is inherent value, status, worth, or importance in one type of credential over another. Each license or ordination is simply the recognition of God's calling and the degree of participation in that calling. An ordination does not imply greater authority, validity, or superiority. Conversely, a Christian Worker License does not imply inferiority or lesser value. It is to be perfectly clear to the applicant that credentials received are an acknowledgement of divine calling, based upon the evidence of participation in that calling.

TENETS OF FAITH

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally coexistent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
3. We believe in the deity of Jesus, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hands of the Father, and 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 absolutely essential.

5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection to eternal life in heaven for believers and the resurrection to damnation for unbelievers.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in Jesus.
8. We believe in the baptism in the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in other tongues.
9. We believe in healing as God's will for mankind.
10. We believe in the corporate worship of believers in a local church.
11. We believe in witnessing to our faith.
12. We believe in stewardship of all assets evidenced in tithing, offerings, etc.
13. We believe in the second coming of Jesus.
14. We believe in marriage between one man and one woman.

ORDINANCES

1. Water baptism for all born-again believers and those who come back to God.
2. The Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

SECTION 1

CREDENTIALS

- I. Ministerial credentials offered:
 - A. **Christian Worker License:** Those persons who have been approved as having met the qualifications in Section III, paragraph A. This license is jointly issued through applicant's local church.
 - B. **Licensing:** Those persons who have been approved as having met the qualifications in Section III, paragraph B.
 - C. **Ordination:** Those persons who have been approved as having met the qualifications in Section III, paragraph C and who have been licensed with LeSEA for at least one year.
- II. Licensing and Ordination are granted through LeSEA. In order for credentials to be transferred from another organization, they must be approved by the LeSEA Advisory Board.

SECTION II

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in World Harvest Ministers Network is available for those ministers who wish to solely retain a license of ordination credentials through another ministerial association, but desire the fellowship, vision, resources and benefits that are afforded through LeSEA.

SECTION III

QUALIFICATIONS

All candidates applying for credentials or memberships
in WHMN must give evidence of:

- A Born-again experience (John 3:3).
- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).
- A spirit-filled life (Ephesians 5:18).
- A divine call to the ministry (Titus 1:7).

In addition, all candidates for licensing or ordination must:

A. For a Christian Worker License:

1. Evidence spiritual and chronological maturity.
2. Be actively involved in the ministry of helps.
3. Have practical experience in ministering to others.
4. Be in agreement with the “Ordinances” and “Tenets of Faith” of this association.
5. Cooperate with all of Sections IV, V, VI, VII.

B. For Licensing:

1. Evidence spiritual and chronological maturity.
2. Purpose to devote time to the work of the ministry.
3. Have adequate practical experience in preparing or preaching/teaching the Word of God.
4. Be in agreement with the “Ordinances” and “Tenets of Faith” of this association.
5. Cooperate with all of Sections IV, V, VI, VII.

C. For Ordination:

1. Evidence spiritual and chronological maturity.
2. Be engaged in full-time ministry for two consecutive years.
3. Be in agreement with the “Ordinances” and “Tenets of Faith” of this association.
4. Cooperate with all of Sections IV, V, VI, VII.

SECTION IV

PROCEDURE FOR SECURING LICENSE/ORDINATION CREDENTIALS

1. Applicant must meet qualifications of Section III, paragraph A, B, or C.
2. Applicant must complete and return an application form.
3. Applicant must make sure a “Confidential Questionnaire” is submitted by three individuals of applicant’s choice (mentioned on the form) and returned within thirty days.
4. Membership fee is \$80.00. The \$20.00 non-refundable application fee will be applied toward the amount due if your application is approved. If approved, we will send your certificate and membership card upon receipt of the \$60.00. You will not be considered a member of WHMN until the full \$80.00 fee is paid.
5. Applicant will be notified usually within 30 days of the Director’s decision. LeSEA will verify references, previous support, and any involvement in our ministry.

SECTION V

PROCESS TO RENEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

All ministers who hold credentials or membership with WHMN need to renew their membership annually. Continuance of credentials and membership is subject to approval by LeSEA on the following conditions:

1. Return the “Renewal Form,” which will be sent to you by LeSEA, along with annual dues within 30 days from the time received.
2. Licensed and ordained ministers must preach at least 20 times during the year or be actively involved in full-time ministry such as Minister of Music, Minister of Visitation, Minister of Education, etc.; be employed in a church staff/management position; or be engaged in one of the five-fold ministries, etc.
3. After LeSEA has received and reviewed your “Membership Annual Report,” you will be notified by mail of our decision, usually within 30 days.

SECTION VI

MINISTERIAL ETHICS

- A. All ministers shall be agreeable with LeSEA in matters of doctrine, conduct and ministry.
- B. All ministers affiliated with LeSEA are expected to work and cooperate with LeSEA programs and policies. Failure to do so may be cause for bringing their ministry and affiliation under review.
- C. Ministers must renew their credentials annually within the specified time in order to maintain affiliation with LeSEA, Inc.
- D. Ministers shall refrain from identifying themselves with any secret orders or societies.
- E. Normal and widely-accepted standards of ethical conduct are expected. The Scriptures prevail whenever questions arise.

SECTION VII

TYPE OF SUPPORT TO LESEA

- A. Churches, ministries and ministers are expected to contribute to LeSEA Ministries, its projects and programs in accordance with the principle of reciprocity as stated in Philippians 4:14-17 as evidence of true partnership and relationship.
- B. These contributions may be in the form of “gifts-in-kind” such as literature, foodstuffs, supplies, and equipment, or other ministry related resources; or direct financial contributions such as special gifts and offerings, monthly missions support, and tithing ministry income. These might include mutually agreed upon programs, such as LeSEA Global Feed The Hungry and special projects, such as food drives.

SECTION VIII

TERMINATION OF CREDENTIALS

- A. Withdrawn: A minister who has elected to remove himself, and against whom there are no charges filed, shall be listed as having withdrawn.
- B. Suspended: A minister may be suspended from the fellowship because of general inefficiency in the ministry, a failure or inability to correctly represent an acceptable testimony, or for a contentious or non-cooperative spirit.
- C. Lapsed: A minister’s credentials shall be denied as “lapsed” in all cases where a minister fails to renew his credentials in a timely fashion. Credentials may be renewed upon completion of requirements as stated in Section V.

SECTION IX

ADVISORY BOARD

The World Harvest Ministers Network operates under the authority of the Board of Directors of the Lester Sumrall Evangelistic Association with advisors that are deemed necessary by said board.

The LeSEA Ministerial Board:

A. Shall consist of five members.

B. Members of the board serve terms as follows:

1. One member for one calendar year.
2. Two members for two calendar years.
3. Two members for three calendar years.

C. Duties:

1. Keeping an overview of the entire organization.
2. Providing spiritual leadership in executive decision making and problem solving.
3. Maintaining a standard of excellence in network direction, organization and finance.
4. Deliberating discipline. When deliberating, the discipline board will be augmented by appointing four additional members. Rehabilitation, as appropriate, will be part of the board's recommendation. In deliberating discipline, the board is free to ask counsel and advice from affiliated members at large, but is not accountable thereto. The board reports to LeSEA, and holds all deliberation confidential.

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL COUNSEL

World Harvest Ministers Network is not responsible for the legal or financial operations of any organization affiliated with it. Competent legal/financial counsel is the responsibility of the individual organization.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE FOR MORAL INDECRETION

In the event that a WHMN member falls into moral indiscretion, we request that the following be done in a timely and orderly manner:

- The member must immediately contact WHMN office reporting the indiscretion.
- A board member, or elder, or associate pastor must call the WHMN office within 48 hours to give an account of the indiscretion.
- WHMN will pray and counsel with the member in question as well as to maintain the spiritual covering of the church or ministry. The ministry representative will also submit a report of his/her findings to the WHMN office. Any financial reimbursements for travel costs incurred by WHMN or its representative will be the responsibility of the ministry in question.
- The member must submit a written account to the WHMN office within one week.

- WHMN expects full cooperation from the member with regards to counsel and discipline.
- The member will refrain from ministry both in and out of the pulpit until notified by WHMN.

It is our duty and desire to see Godly restoration take place. In order for restoration to occur, we believe repentance, humility, and submission to counsel must first be evident. Ultimately, we believe that through proper covering and accountability, a fallen minister can return to a position of authority and continue to faithfully pursue the call of God. Our desire is to reflect Christ in matters of discipline, and to honor Him.

“Brethren, if any person is overtaken in misconduct or sin of any sort, you who are spiritual – who are responsive to and controlled by the Spirit – should set him right and restore and reinstate him, without any sense of superiority and with all gentleness.”

Galatians 6:1 Amplified

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about World Harvest Ministers Network, please feel free to call our office at 574-291-3292.