

Keystone Conference Ministerial Development Process Guide

Conference Ministerial Candidate (CMC) – Stage 2

The primary focus of the second stage of discerning a ministry call is the Head: learning about the church as a functioning body, growing in theological and ecclesiological knowledge, building connections with the broader FM Church and practically engaging in intentional ministry. Those in this stage will begin to learn about the unique doctrines and church structures of Free Methodists, as well as begin applying them.

The mentor continues to guide and support the potential candidate through this time, while the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board oversees their process and begins to shepherd their education and development through conference training and education opportunities.

The following is a step-by-step guide to Stage 2 in the ministerial credentialing process of a potential candidate to help them become a Conference Ministerial Candidate (CMC) in the Free Methodist Church. When all the expectations listed here (as well as in the LMC Stage 1) are completed, you may apply to be interviewed by the Ministerial Education and Guidance (MEG) Board of the Keystone Conference for the purpose of becoming a Conference Ministerial Candidate.

These steps may be completed concurrently. Most of these items are to be sent to the Conference Ministerial Credentialing Coach for uploading on the candidates MD&C portfolio.

1. Complete and assemble an Application for Ministry Appointment (some components will overlap with other steps in this process listed below). Submit the application and confirm that the following have either been included in the packet or have been sent to be uploaded to the candidate's portfolio as requested by the MEG Board. Candidates may also submit additional materials that prove helpful in the discernment process.
 - a. Submit the various LMC Formation Plans you have worked on with your mentor detailing growth through the LMC process.
 - b. Testimony, including call to ministry
 - c. Completed reference forms
 - d. Results of pertinent assessment tools including StrengthsFinder, Spiritual Gifts inventory.
 - e. Final project from FM History & Polity class.
 - f. LMC Theological Proficiency Assessment
 - g. Copies of the three background checks required in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
 - h. Spouse Questionnaire
 - i. As part of the Application for Ministry Appointment a candidate may submit, or the Credentialing Coach or MEG Board may also request:
 1. Samples of sermons, bible studies or devotionals demonstrating healthy theological perspective integrated with clear/practical life questions.

2. A list of most influential books, classes, seminars, or training events or ministry and/or leadership in which the candidate has engaged over the past year.
 2. Contact the Credentialing Coach to begin the Divorce Clearance process if you or your spouse have experienced a divorce. The process must be completed before you can schedule your CMC interview.
 3. Enroll in and complete the FM History & Polity course offered by the Keystone Conference. A final project is required and becomes part of the MD&C Candidate Portfolio. Have the instructor submit your grade to the Conference Credentialing Coach for recording on your MD&C Portfolio.
 4. Read: *The Call of a Lifetime* by Keith Drury. Complete the exercises in each chapter. Discuss with mentor. Participate in a video conference with other LMCs in discussing the ideas from the book. This will be led by the Conference Credentialing Coach.
 5. Send to the Credentialing Coach copies of official/unofficial transcripts from all post-high school institutions; certificates from technical/other programs.
 6. Complete the StrengthsFinder Profile Assessment. An online option is available (\$19.99 at time of writing) or you can order the book and receive a code for the online option. Share the results with the Conference Credentialing Coach and go through the results with your mentor.
 7. Using the "Head/Heart/Hands" template, create with your mentor a "Personal Formation Plan" built around the "Head" column. Meet at least monthly to review progress on these outcomes.
 8. Complete the LMC Theological Proficiency Assessment and submit to the Conference Credentialing Coach. (Please note that the assessment is simply to get a sense of the candidate's current understanding. This is not something to study for).
 9. If the LMC's Local Church mentor believes the candidate has fulfilled the goals of the Formation Plan and is ready to progress, he/she should submit a letter of recommendation to the MEG Board.
 10. Request a MEG Board interview (Requests should be received by January 15 for consideration at the June Annual Conference).
 11. Following the MEG Board CMC interview one of the following will be decided:
 - a. You will be recommended to Annual Conference for approval as a Conference Ministerial Candidate (CMC).
 - b. You will be advised to pursue the avenue of Consecrated Deacon.
 - c. You will be advised to take additional time in the discernment process with the Local Church mentor in order to address specific areas of hesitation.
 - d. You will be directed toward non-ordained/non-consecrated ministry and will receive feedback with recommendations for continued growth and health.
- If option "a" takes place you will be received as a CMC at Annual Conference (attendance is required)