

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

Mentoring a District Licensed Candidate

Mentoring a ministerial candidate is both a privilege and a responsibility. Mentors must be available for their mentees as well as initiate interaction for the ministerial development of the candidate. The mentor should strive to adequately prepare the ministerial candidate for ordained ministry, as well as prepare them for successful interviews with the Ministerial Credentials Board. Local Pastors should play a similar role for their candidates within in the local church.

1. Provide the [Guide to Ministerial Preparation and Ordination](#) to candidates. This includes offering spiritual, ministerial and practical guidance, as well as helping the candidate to understand the credentialing process. Mentors should help the candidate prepare to interview with the Ministerial Board of Credentials, and help when issues, such as divorce barriers, arise.
2. Encourage candidates to focus on ability statements provided in the guide and help candidates to work through an understanding of these statements.
3. Mentors are expected to aid in the pastoral development of candidates and hold candidates accountable throughout the entire process (including checking that educational requirements are being met).
4. Mentors/local pastors are encouraged to have candid, honest conversations with candidates if necessary regarding giftedness for ministry. *It is the mentor/local pastor's job to have the tough conversation with a candidate if they are not called or qualified for pastoral ministry.* Mentors and local pastors should have absolute confidence in candidates.
5. Work with candidate on sermon preparation and delivery as needed. Local pastors should provide teaching and preaching opportunities, and offer constructive feedback after teaching and sermons to help with content, delivery, etc. Utilize the form provided by credentials board.
6. Mentors/local pastors should help candidates identify strengths and weaknesses in ministry.
7. Help candidate with ability to articulate the following:
 - Understanding and experience of call to ministry
 - Understanding and experience of entire sanctification
 - Understanding and support of doctrinal teachings of the Church of the Nazarene
 - Theology of ministry
 - Church of the Nazarene's mission statement
 - Church of the Nazarene's core values
8. The mentor must be ordained in the Church of the Nazarene. Candidates may select their mentor (someone beyond their local pastor) or the Credentials Board can assist in pairing candidate with a mentor. It's encouraged to keep proximity in mind in order to facilitate regular in-person meetings.
9. Mentors should meet with candidates regularly, no less than one time per month. It is the responsibility of the candidate to make the first contact with the mentor.

Candidate's Signature

Mentor's Signature

Date

Mentor's Phone Number and E-Mail Address