



FOREST LAKES DISTRICT

EFCA

2309 EAGLE SUMMIT
STEVENS POINT, WI 54482

Credentialing Paper Mentor Program

Overview:

The Credentialing Paper Mentor Program is a 6-12 month commitment that allows candidates to work with a mentor to write their paper for their EFCA credential. Each candidate will be paired with a mentor who has completed the EFCA credentialing process. At the end of the process, the candidate's paper will be complete and can be submitted using the online platform to the Forest Lakes District along with the other application requirements. After careful review of submitted items, candidates will be scheduled for the next available District Board of Ministerial Standing (DBOMS) council. *(Candidates will only be scheduled for a council if all requirements are met and the candidate's paper is complete.)*

Purpose:

The purpose of this program is multifaceted. We believe that working with a mentor is a fruitful experience for both candidate and mentor. Not only does this opportunity provide an avenue for relationship (stronger together), but both parties are able to grow theologically as they engage in doctrinal subjects that sharpen and enrich understanding. It is our desire that the candidate be challenged and encouraged through this relationship. We have also found that working in a cohort or with a mentor holds candidates accountable in their progress toward a completed credential and also helps to better prepare them for their council.

Proposed Timeline:

Each month or two, the candidate will submit a section of their paper to their mentor. The mentor will then review the paper and share feedback for discussion. Candidates and mentors may connect in-person, via Zoom, and/or any other platform that works best.

- ☐ Meeting One: The candidate and mentor will determine the timeline and platform that works best for the mentoring process. The candidate will prepare the section of his/her paper that contains their personal testimony and call to the ministry. The mentor will pay special attention to format to ensure it meets the paper requirements set by the national office. The candidate and mentor will discuss this section during the first meeting.
- ☐ Meeting Two: Prepare and discuss Articles 1-3 of our Statement of Faith.
- ☐ Meeting Three: Prepare and discuss Articles 4-7 of our Statement of Faith.
- ☐ Meeting Four: Prepare and discuss Articles 8-10 of our Statement of Faith.
- ☐ Meeting Five: Prepare and discuss the current doctrinal issues and issues related to the lifestyle sections.

- Meeting Six: The candidate makes changes, additions, and corrections to the paper and submits it to the mentor for final review. The mentor will do a second review, determining if there are any additional areas that need to be addressed before submission.

Preparation for the DBOMS Council:

The purpose of the DBOMS Council is to understand and evaluate all aspects of the candidate's life, ministry, and beliefs (calling, character, and theology), which includes their ability to handle the Scripture. The council's heart is to encourage, celebrate, and affirm the candidate, his/her family, and the local church in which they are presently serving.

Council Procedure Includes:

- Asking clarifying questions about the content of the paper (*no "gotcha" questions*)
- Asking questions about issues that are relevant to but not necessarily included in the paper
- Seeking information that would supplement the material submitted by the candidate's local church in areas of personal holiness, ministry effectiveness, and character

Council Details:

- For planning purposes, candidates should allow approximately 1½ - 2 hours for a licensing council and 3½ hours for an ordination council.
- The council will be audio recorded to provide a reference for any questions that may require future clarification.
- If married, the candidate is encouraged to invite his/her spouse to attend.
- Ordination candidates are required to bring five total lay members to the council meeting. At least two lay members are to be from the candidate's local church, and the other three lay members can be from other churches.

Following the Council:

- Candidates will make any suggested final edits to their paper as directed by the DBOMS council and reviewed by their mentor.
- Each candidate will submit his/her final paper using the online platform.
- Please note: approval by the National office can take up to six weeks.
- Ordination candidates will not receive their certificate until an ordination service date has been scheduled and communicated to both the District and National office.

If you have an questions about the Credentialing Process, please feel free to connect with:
Ashley Haferman, Credentialing Catalyst, at: ahaferman@forestlakes-efca.org.