



FOREST LAKES DISTRICT

EFCA

2309 EAGLE SUMMIT
STEVENS POINT, WI 54482

Credentialing In-Person Cohort Opportunity

The Credentialing Cohort Opportunity is a 10-month commitment that allows candidates to pursue their credentials alongside others and with the leadership of the dedicated staff of Highland Community Church. 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.)*

Proposed Timeline:

This cohort would seek to meet every other month at Highland Community Church in Wausau to diligently study each of the ten articles of the EFCA's Statement of Faith. At each meeting, candidates will receive a teaching by Highland Staff on two of the articles (i.e. Meeting 1 - God & the Bible; Meeting 2 -The Human Condition & Jesus Christ, etc.). Following the teaching, the cohort will be asked licensing/ordinations questions on the article of the month with the goal of helping prepare the candidates for their council. See specific dates at the end of this document.

Participant's Expectations:

Participants must come to each meeting having read the chapters being studied for that meeting as well as with those points fully written out for his or her paper. (i.e. For the first meeting, the cohort will study Article 1 & 2 of the EFCA Statement of Faith. Therefore, those chapters need to be read in [Evangelical Convictions](#) and each point needs to be written as if ready for submission). After the meeting, participants will have up to three weeks to make modifications to both articles. This allows participants to take what they have learned and directly apply each lesson to their paper. Once participants are finished with edits, the paper may be submitted to the cohort lead, Pastor Jeff Hinds, at jhinds@highlandcommunitychurch.com. The Highland Community Church

staff will read and provide feedback for each person's points in order to help candidates write a solid paper.

Each participant must be committed to a 2 1/2 hour meeting, every other month (5 meetings total) at Highland Community Church in Wausau.

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.
- Once your final paper is submitted with all other requirements, the National Office will notify you of approval. This process 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 and Multiplication Catalyst*, at ahaferman@forestlakes-efca.org.