

The General Council of the Assemblies of God

SYNOPSIS – EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFIED

This Synopsis is intended to aid in preparation for both written and oral components of the credential examination that is divided into the following four sections:

I. DOCTRINE AND THEOLOGY

For this section, the applicant may use only a Bible without notes or concordances.

This section consists of objective questions, basic in nature. They are drawn from across the doctrinal spectrum, many directly from the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

While no certain level of academic study is required, any doctrinal studies in Assemblies of God resident and/or distance education institutions of higher learning will be helpful, as will any studies or readings in sound evangelical and Pentecostal doctrine. In any event, the applicant should be thoroughly familiar with:

1. William W. Menzies, *Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective*, Gen. ed. Stanley M. Horton (Springfield, MO: Logion Press/Gospel Publishing House, 1993). Read this book carefully, noting especially the Glossary.
2. The Statement of Fundamental Truths (Article V of the General Council *Constitution*). Learn each of the 16 Fundamental Truths and study the wording of each carefully. *Bible Doctrines* is an excellent aid to understanding.
3. You will need a clear understanding of the following terms, doctrines, and theological concepts:

Assemblies of God four cardinal doctrines
Assemblies of God policies regarding divorce
and remarriage of ministers
Assemblies of God fourfold mission of the church
Attributes of God
Authority of Scripture
Autographs – original manuscripts
Bible versions
Canon of scripture
Christology
Day of Pentecost events
Divine healing and Atonement
Ecclesiology
Eschatology
Eternal punishment – hell
Fruit of the Spirit
Holy Spirit baptism and gifts
Image of God
Imminent return of Christ
Immutable
Incarnation
Infallibility of Scripture
Initial physical evidence

Inspiration of Scripture
Justification
Millennium
Outpourings of the Spirit (accompanied
by tongues) in Acts
Pentecost
Prophecy
Rapture
Redemption
Regeneration
Repentance
Results of the fall of man
Resurrection
Sanctification
Security of the believer
Tithing principles
Tongues and prophecy
Trinity
Verbal plenary inspiration
Vicarious Atonement
Virgin birth and conception
Water baptism
Worldliness

II. CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AND ASSEMBLIES OF GOD POLITY

For this section, the applicant may use a Bible without notes or concordances, as well as the General Council and the district council *Constitution and Bylaws*. However, once this section is begun, the applicant may not refer back to the first section.

This section consists of objective questions dealing with aspects of administration and polity covered, for the most part, by the General Council *Constitution and Bylaws*.

The questions center on issues of particular importance to Certified Ministers and their beginning ministry.

In addition, you will need a clear understanding of the following terms and concepts:

- Annual Credential Renewal Process
- Assemblies of God stance on women in ministry
- District affiliated churches
- Election procedures for General Council offices
- General Council affiliated churches
- General Council membership and governance principles
- General Council official board of directors (makeup)
- Membership in secret orders
- Ministry requirements for certified credential
- Transferring credentials from one district to another
- Voluntary cooperative fellowship

III. PERSONAL/MINISTRY INVENTORY

This section of the examination requires no advance study. It entails a personal evaluation of one's personal life and ministry effectiveness by means of 30 objective-type questions answered on a 1-2-3-4 (Likert) scale that deal with personal and family life (where applicable) as well as ministry practices and relationships.

IV. PERSONAL TESTIMONY

This part of the examination requires a brief handwritten description, not to exceed one page, of your personal testimony.

V. CALL TO THE MINISTRY

This part of the examination requires a brief handwritten description, not to exceed one page, of your call to the ministry.