

The General Council of the Assemblies of God

SYNOPSIS – EXAMINATION FOR ORDINATION

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, noting Scripture references. *Bible Doctrines* is an excellent aid to understanding.
3. In addition, you will need a clear understanding of the following terms, doctrines, and theological concepts:

Agnosticism	Illumination as it refers to the Spirit
Amillennialism	Immutable
Apocryphal books	Inerrancy of Scripture
Apostles, biblical and current roles	Infallibility of Scripture
Arianism	Inspiration
Assemblies of God purposes and distinctives	“Jesus Only” Doctrine
Atheism	Justification
Attributes of God	Millennium
Authority of Scripture	Ministry gifts
Bible versions	Mission of the church
Calvinism	Modalism
Canon of Scripture	Monism
Christology	Ordinances of the church
Deism	Pentecost
Deity of Christ	Polytheism
Dichotomism	Post-Millennialism
Discipleship	Pre-Millennialism
Divine revelation	Prophecy
Ecclesiology, the church	Rapture
Ecumenism	Sabellianism
Evangelism	Sacraments
Eschatology	Sanctification
Fall of man	Sin and salvation
Gifts of the Spirit and their use	Transcendence
Hermeneutics	Trinity
Holy Spirit baptism	Verbal plenary inspiration
Homiletics	Vicarious Atonement

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*.

For basic information on legal and tax issues, visit the Web site www.newminister.com. When additional information is needed, consult www.churchlawtoday.com. Both of these Web sites contain materials written by Richard Hammar, the Assemblies of God legal counsel. You may also consult www.ministers.ag.org for further study and ministry resources.

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

Annual Credential Renewal Process	General Council credentials committee
Articles of Incorporation for a local church	General Council governance principles
Assemblies of God U.S. Missions	General Council official board of directors
Assemblies of God World Missions	General Council nondiscriminatory policy
Call to ministry	General Council prerogatives
Church governance documents	General Council voting constituency
Church membership	Housing allowance
Civil law	IRS and local tax laws for ministers and churches
Clergy-penitent privilege	IRS Form 4361
Conducting background screenings of workers	Laws regarding incorporation for churches
Confidentiality	Local church governance
Dissolution clauses	Membership in secret orders/societies
District affiliated churches	Ministerial discipline guidelines
District council governance principles	Nonprofit corporate law
Divorce and remarriage guidelines for AG clergy; adultery or prior to conversion exceptions	Performing marriage ceremonies
Ecclesiastical annulment	Private ownership of religious institutions
Educational requirements for AG ministers	Ministry requirement for ordained ministers
Financial obligation for ordained ministers to General Council and district council	Privileged information
General Council affiliated churches	<i>Robert's Rules of Order</i>
	Social Security (SE) taxes for ministers
	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. 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.