

Who are we?

The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada is a Fellowship of more than 1,100 diverse churches and ministries across Canada. Over 235,000 people attend our services across the nation, and we are pleased to provide ministerial credentials for more than 3,600 pastors and ministry leaders. We're also here to help facilitate the vital work of more than 285 global workers, who are spreading the good news of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and bringing hope and help to those in need in more than 65 countries around the world.



We now have this light shining in our hearts,
but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars
containing this great treasure.

This makes it clear that our great power
is from God, not from ourselves.

2 Corinthians 4:7



2450 Milltower Court, Mississauga, ON L5N 5Z6
t: 905.542.7400 f: 905.542.7313 w: www.paoc.org

Credentials

~ QUALIFIED TO LEAD ~



What are ministerial credentials?

A ministerial credential is a designation given to an individual who meets certain standards of personal and spiritual maturity and who demonstrates deep commitment to God and to ministry. The PAOC has developed a system of providing credentials to individuals who meet a high standard of spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social, and ministerial maturity. Individuals who obtain credentials are, therefore, recognized as both qualified and trustworthy to fill a variety of ministry positions.

Why should I be credentialed?

PAOC ministerial credentials acknowledge and affirm your divine call and commission, your qualification as an individual suited to minister within the PAOC, and your character as a Christian leader. Credentials also open up opportunities for fellowship and growth within the PAOC and beyond that include community accountability, support, and ministry enrichment events.

Through the process of becoming credentialed, you will be affirmed in your desire to serve in ministry. Your experiences in Christ and in the Spirit-filled life will be evaluated, as well as the authenticity of your divine calling and your understanding of sound biblical doctrine as upheld by the PAOC. Your practical ministry abilities and your commitment to the Fellowship's purposes, policies and initiatives will also be appraised. This is a process that will empower and direct you in your ministry path, as well as benefit the Fellowship by ensuring that its ministries are served by qualified individuals.

Why should I be credentialed with the PAOC?

Ministry credentials are offered by a variety of organizations, but their value to you hinges on the reputation and spiritual foundations of those organizations. By obtaining your credential from the PAOC, you are affiliating yourself with a highly respected, God-centered organization.

FURTHERMORE, PAOC CREDENTIALS:

- Ensure that biblical standards for spiritual leadership are met, as per 1 Timothy 3: 1-13.
- Demonstrate your relationship with us and open opportunities of ministry within our Fellowship and beyond.
- Allow you to participate in the life of the Fellowship by contributing to the formulation of policies and programs, serving and holding office (depending on the type of credential held).
- License you to perform weddings and serve with various governmental boards or agencies (depending on the type of credential that you pursue).
- Provide you with a supportive community that offers accountability, leadership and guidance.
- Grant opportunities for life-long learning and personal growth through conferences and seminars.
- Provide reasonable assurance that the fruit of your ministry will be preserved.
- Allow you to network with over 3,600 ministry peers and more than 1,100 PAOC churches and ministries through various ministry enrichment events.
- Provide financial benefits including eligibility for the PAOC Pension Fund, group insurance plans, and a Clergy Residence Deduction through the Canada Revenue Agency.

What credentials are offered?

- Ministry Related
- Recognition of Ministry
- Licensed Minister
- Ordained

More information regarding each of these credential categories is available in the General Constitution and By-Laws under By-Law 10 – Ministerial Credentials. It is available on our website at www.paoc.org under Fellowship Services, Forms and Documents, Constitutions.

Do I qualify?

In order to qualify for a PAOC credential you must have a personal experience of salvation and have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues and you must personally subscribe to The Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (By-Law 10.2).

In addition:

- You must have a recognized appointment in ministry as described in By-Law 10.2.8.1.2. The ministry placement can be either volunteer or paid, or a combination of both.
- You must be engaged in a ministry appointment which involves a minimum of 20 hours of active ministerial responsibility per week. The 20 hours a week can also include the preparation time involved in the performance of your ministerial duties.

How do I get credentialed?

1. Complete and submit the appropriate PAOC application form, fee, and additional documents to your district office in accordance with the credential you are applying for. Visit www.paoc.org for the forms and for further instructions*.
 2. Once the district office receives your application, the District Credentials Committee will set up an interview with you, after which they may choose to recommend you.
 3. Recommendations are reviewed following this interview and upon approval, the National Credentials Committee issues the credentials.
- * If you are divorced and remarried or married to someone who has been divorced, please contact your district office before applying for credentials.

May the Lord equip you with all you need for doing His will (Hebrews 13:21). Thank you for your interest in pursuing credentials with the PAOC!

