

CHURCH ENDORSEMENT OF NEW MINISTERS, CHURCHES & PARA-CHURCHES

To ensure the ongoing credibility of the FCA and the health of its member churches and ministers, every church leadership team wanting to endorse other ministers, churches and para-churches need to be aware of the responsibilities and be committed to the core values of the FCA.

Church Endorsement of Ministers

Each local church must have a prescribed set of minimum standards for the licensing and ordination of ministers and commissioning of missionaries. Every minister must meet minimal licensing/ordination/commissioning requirements as set forth by the FCA. This also includes ministers who have transferred their membership from another fellowship/denomination. The following is an example of such minimum standards.

A. Licensing

Licensing may be granted to a faithful servant of God who has a proven track record in Biblical and Christian service studies, exhibits a minimum of two years of Christian service in a local church, and demonstrates promise as a faithful minister of the Gospel. Licensing is for limited ministerial practice under the tutelage of a Senior Minister and the local church.

B. Ordination

Ordination is akin to a journeyman's ticket in the trade world. This person has completed a prescribed set of studies accompanied by a certificate, a diploma, or a degree - as may be required by the local church, has served as a licensed minister for a minimum of two years, is effective in ministry, has the unanimous support of the church leadership, and is intent on continuing in ministry for life. Commissioning of Missionaries requires the same criteria as ordination. Both licensing and ordination may be accompanied by the privilege to marry as may be deemed by the endorsing church.

C. Responsibilities

1. Every local church listed with the FCA is responsible for licensing and ordaining of ministers and the commissioning of missionaries. The endorsing church is required to maintain communication with the minister for life. The integrity of the ministry of this Fellowship rests upon the diligence of the local church in this vital area.
2. A minister that is endorsed by an FCA registered church for membership is accountable to that church and its leadership.
3. The minister is accountable to keeping the endorsing church aware of his/her activities during the year.
4. Membership in the FCA is renewed annually through the endorsing church. It is the responsibility of the minister to contact the endorsing church in the early fall to ensure their membership is renewed on time. Failure to renew will result in cancellation of marriage privileges and the minister will not be listed in the directory for the following year.
5. The minister is accountable to maintain ethical conduct in line with Biblical authority and demonstrating character showing respect for the FCA and all of its members.
6. The endorsing church must register the licensed or ordained minister with the Secretary of the Fellowship with the completed prescribed forms.

D. Endorsement of Churches/Para-Churches

In order for a church/para-church to become a member of the FCA it must be endorsed by an FCA registered church.

1. A church/para-church that is endorsed by an FCA church for membership in the FCA does so out of an established relationship with that church.
2. The process to approve a church/para-church for endorsement is defined in the FCA handbook. An Endorsing Church Report for a new church/para-church must accompany the application sent to the Secretary.
3. An endorsing church may withdraw their endorsement because of ending its relationship with the FCA; or it may decide that it can no longer endorse a particular church because of a violation of the principles of the FCA or due to reasons of unbiblical doctrine on behalf of the church seeking an endorsement; the FCA endorsing church may no longer wish to continue endorsing other churches in the FCA.

E. FCA Handbook

A more comprehensive description of all of the above is found in the FCA Handbook.

Forms

All the forms required for endorsement of ministers or churches (as well as the Handbook) are available on the FCA website: www.fcaministers.com.

Your familiarity and faithful practice of these simple guidelines ensures the integrity of this Fellowship. Thank you for taking the time to read and become aware of these important guidelines.

F. The following documents are required for the endorsing of ministers, churches and para-churches:

1. For ministers:

- a. A *“Minister’s Registration Card”*
- b. An *“Endorsing Church Report for a New Minister or Previously Endorsed Minister”*
- c. A copy of the minister’s ordination, license or commissioned missionary’s certificate
- d. The yearly registration fee of \$150.00, \$100 for the spouses of registered ministers who want to be registered, \$50.00 for Missionaries and for Retired Ministers (i.e. - those 65 or older not in fulltime ministry)

2. For churches/para-church:

- a. An *Initial Request For Church and Para-Church Recognition and Listing”*
- b. An *“Annual Church Information Sheet”*
- c. An *Endorsing Church Report for a New Church/Para-church Registration”* or a *“Endorsing Church Report for a Previously Endorsed Church/Para-church Registration”*
- d. A copy of the provincial incorporation certificate
- e. The annual fee for churches. Churches are expected to follow the FCA guideline for an annual church fee of 1% of the church’s annual operating budget, not including the annual missions’ and building funds. The minimum annual church fee is \$200, to a maximum fee of \$3,000.00.