



HARVESTNET

NETWORKING CHURCHES & MINISTRIES FOR HARVEST

Credentialing Application

The call to the ministry is a serious and sober matter. The apostle James said, “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know we who teach will be judged more strictly.” (James 3:1) Jesus said, “To whom much is given, much is required.” While the call may come with great joy, anticipation, and expectation, it carries with it the surety that the fire of refinement will be greater than that of those not called to lead. This is because the “ministry” is not about a job or a position; it is about a lifestyle of servant hood. Consider carefully Paul’s charge to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

LICENSE AND ORDINATION CANDIDATE CRITERIA

- **Personal Spiritual Growth and Character**
 - Have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior
 - Accept the Bible as your guide for living
 - Have a stable marriage relationship if married.
 - We interpret Paul’s admonitions regarding marriage in 1 Timothy 3, “the husband of but one wife,” to refer to the act of bigamy. While we don’t disqualify candidates who have been divorced and/or remarried, we do reserve the right to question them regarding these matters and to hold them accountable in their marriages just as we would any other candidate.
 - Demonstrate a commitment to individual and corporate spiritual disciplines that results in ongoing spiritual growth
- **Sound Doctrine**
 - Be committed to the HarvestNET doctrinal statement and demonstrate the ability to communicate sound doctrine
- **Calling and Leadership**
 - Demonstrate a call to ministry and have that calling confirmed by others
 - Be recognized by leadership of HarvestNET or related ministry as a person with a call to Christian ministry and service, bearing fruit
 - Demonstrate a commitment to leadership development and networking in your community of residence
 - Demonstrate Christian leadership character as described in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- **Ministry within HarvestNET**
 - Under most circumstances, applicants must be partners of HarvestNET for six months before applying for credentials.
 - Be in agreement with the distinctives as found in the HarvestNET manual

- Regularly attend HarvestNET meetings or be in relationship with leadership for at least one year
 - Faithfully and consistently support HarvestNET and its leadership with prayer, financial obligations, and active involvement in leadership events and conferences
 - Receive guidance and counsel from HarvestNET
 - Agree to be in relationship with a mentor, as needed or requested, as recognized by HarvestNET
- **Commitment to Local Church**
 - Be an approved and faithful member in a local church or fellowship
 - Have three years of faithful service of some kind in a local congregation, as indicated in the pastoral reference.

STEPS FOR CREDENTIALING

LICENSING PROCESS

Licensing is often the first step toward ordination and is also suitable for some roles that do not involve pastoring or governing a church.

- Submit a completed application along with the application fee of \$25
- Complete the theological questionnaire giving a short answer to each question
- Obtain a recommendation from a HarvestNET Board member
- The candidate and their spouse will be interviewed by the recommendation panel
- Upon approval of the HarvestNET board, a one year license will be granted
- A license can be renewed yearly as long as the person remains in active ministry, accountable to HarvestNET and an active partner within the network
- For a yearly license renewal, a ministry update with current ministry reporting needs to be submitted to the HarvestNET Board by December 1 for the next calendar year
- The HarvestNET board will determine license renewals at their year-end meeting

ORDINATION PROCESS

- Submit a completed application along with the application fee of \$25
- Complete the theological questionnaire giving a short answer to each question
- Supply references as required having them mailed directly to the HarvestNET office
- The candidate and their spouse will be interviewed by the recommendation panel
- Some who have been licensed may be eligible to advance to the ordination level after two years of active ministry at the licensing level

Those desiring to transfer ordination credentials to HarvestNET from another organization may apply to do so, providing that they are in agreement with the basic requirements of HarvestNET. Acceptance is subject to approval and recommendation by the HarvestNET Board.



HARVESTNET

NETWORKING CHURCHES & MINISTRIES FOR HARVEST

APPLICATION

Ordination

Licensing

Transfer

___ License

___ Ordination

General Information

Full Name _____

Date of Birth _____

PHONE NUMBER: home (____) _____ cell (____) _____

Email _____

Address _____

Present Occupation _____

Marital Status Single _____ Married _____ Divorced _____
Widowed _____ Remarried _____

Spouses Name _____

Names and ages of children _____

Education: Highest level completed _____ Major _____

Place _____ Additional notes _____

Do you attend church regularly? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you a member? _____ Yes _____ No

Church Name _____

Years attending _____

In what capacity are you currently serving? _____

What type of ministry do you anticipate participating in? _____

Who do you recognize as your overseer and/or spiritual father or mentor? _____

If you are transferring a previous ordination/license, who was the credentialing organization? _____

Why do you feel you need credentials to fulfill your calling? _____

Do you have any deadlines or timetable in mind? _____

Are you involved in any ongoing immorality, addictive behavior or illegal activity that could disqualify you from licensing/ordination or partnership in HarvestNET?

_____ Yes _____ No (If yes, please provide brief explanation.)

Agreement:

I verify that the information on this application is true and correct. I hereby certify that I have read the HarvestNET manual including the distinctives, partnership requirements, and credentialing requirements and accept them and agree to abide by them while credentialed with HarvestNET. By signing this, you are giving HarvestNET permission to obtain any necessary background checks.

Applicant's Signature

Date

The HarvestNET Board reserves the right to require the withdrawal of any member who is considered to be out of harmony with the spirit of this fellowship.

PLEASE LIST THREE REFERENCES – including one from your pastor. Each of them will be mailed a confidential questionnaire, which they will return directly to HarvestNET. If you are a Senior Pastor, please include a reference from one of your peers.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: home (____) _____ work (____) _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

BUSINESS: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: home (____) _____ work (____) _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

BUSINESS: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: home (____) _____ work (____) _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

BUSINESS: _____

Theological Questionnaire for Ordination

Those applying for ordination should answer the following questions in writing and submit the answers along with the application. The board may ask you to further defend or explain the answers orally in an interview.

1. Explain your reasons for seeking ordination with HarvestNET. How will you express your commitment to the HarvestNET network and serve the HarvestNET vision?
2. Explain your understanding of the HarvestNET distinctives.
3. State your view of the scriptures as the source of truth in ministering. In what way do they have authority over both your faith and conduct?
4. Present a statement on the Christian view of God including the doctrine of the Trinity. Include a paragraph on today's most prevalent errors regarding the nature of God.
 - a. Indicate your understanding of God the Father. What errors are most prevalent concerning the first person of the Trinity?
 - b. Indicate your understanding of Jesus Christ, including the uniqueness of His person (why full humanity and deity are essential) and the importance of His work. What errors are most prevalent today regarding Jesus Christ?
 - c. Set forth what you believe and teach regarding the Holy Spirit. Comment specifically on both His nature and His work. Indicate your views of the filling of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit filled life. What errors are most prevalent today regarding the Holy Spirit?
5. Discuss God's redemptive plan for a fallen humanity in a sinful world. Indicate your awareness of key salvation principles such as atonement, repentance, justification, and regeneration.
6. Briefly present how you have shared the message of salvation with someone.
7. State your view of the Church, both its nature and its mission.
8. Present a brief spiritual autobiography. Include your personal experience with Jesus Christ, your call, and your vision for ministry.
9. What are your personal, primary disciplines for spiritual, physical, and emotional renewal?
10. What do you consider to be your greatest personal strengths in ministering to people?
11. What do you consider to be your personal weaknesses in ministering to people?
12. What aspect of ministry gives you the most apprehension?
13. What are your plans for continuing personal and professional growth?
14. Describe the role of your family, especially your spouse, in ministry. Indicate their support and/or apprehension about serving in ministry.

Theological Questionnaire for License

Those applying for licensing should answer the following questions in writing and submit the answers along with the application. The board may ask you to further defend or explain the answers orally in an interview.

1. Explain your reasons for seeking licensing with HarvestNET.
2. Explain your understanding of the HarvestNET distinctives.
3. State your view of the scriptures as the source of truth in ministering. In what way do they have authority over both your faith and conduct?
4. Discuss God's redemptive plan for a fallen humanity in a sinful world.
5. State your view of the Church, both its nature and its mission.
6. Present a brief spiritual autobiography. Include your personal experience with Jesus Christ, your call, and your vision for ministry.
7. What do you consider to be your greatest personal strengths in ministering to people?
8. What do you consider to be your personal weaknesses in ministering to people?
9. What are your plans for continuing personal and professional growth?
10. Describe the role of your family, especially your spouse, in ministry. Indicate their support and/or apprehension about serving in ministry.