

The General Council of the Assemblies of God

SYNOPSIS –EXAMINATION FOR LICENSE

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 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. You will need a clear understanding of the following terms, doctrines, and theological concepts:

Antichrist	Millennium
Apocryphal books	Ministry gifts
Apostles	Mission of the church
Attributes of God	New heaven and new earth
Autographs – original manuscripts	Ordinances of the church
Bible versions	Pentecost
Calvinism	Post-Millennialism
Canon of Scripture	Pre-Millennialism
Christology	Prophecy
Classifications of spiritual gifts	Rapture
Deacon	Reconciliation
Discipleship	Redemption
Ecclesiology – the church	Regeneration
Ecumenism	Repentance
Elders	Revelation of Christ
Eschatology and eschatological errors	Sacraments
Evangelism	Saints – literal meaning
Great Commission	Sanctification
Hermeneutics	Second death
Holy Spirit baptism and gifts	Security of the believer
Illumination	Tithing principles
Imminent return of Christ	Transcendence
Immutable	Trinity
Infallibility of Scripture	Verbal plenary inspiration
Initial physical evidence	Vicarious Atonement
Inspiration	Water baptism
Justification	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*.

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 Executive Presbytery makeup (credentialing committee)
Articles of Incorporation for a local church	General Council governance principles
Assemblies of God U.S. Missions	General Council nondiscriminatory policy
Assemblies of God World Missions	Housing allowance
Assemblies of God membership	Local church governance
Assemblies of God fourfold mission	Membership in secret orders
Civil law	Military service
Clergy-penitent privilege	Ministerial discipline for offenses
Conducting background screenings of workers	Ministerial ethics and courtesy
Confidentiality	Ministry requirement for licensed ministers
District affiliated churches	Nonprofit corporate law
District council governance principles	Performing marriage ceremonies
Divine healing and the Atonement	Private ownership of religious institutions
Divorce and remarriage – rules for ministers and exceptions	Privileged information
Ethnic churches and fellowships within the Assemblies of God	Social Security (SE) taxes for ministers
Financial obligation for licensed ministers to General Council and district council	Solicitation of funds – rules regarding
General Council affiliated churches	Tongues and their use
	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.

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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.