



Provident Network Handbook

Revised 2005

CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	2
TENETS OF FAITH.....	2
ORDINANCES.....	2
CREDENTIALS.....	3
MEMBERSHIP.....	3
QUALIFICATIONS.....	3
PROCEDURE FOR SECURING LICENSE/ ORDINATION CREDENTIALS.....	5
PROCESS TO RENEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP.....	5
MINISTERIAL ETHICS.....	5
TYPE OF SUPPORT TO PROVIDENT MINISTRIES.....	6
TERMINATION OF CREDENTIALS.....	6
ADVISORY BOARD.....	6
LEGAL/FINANCIAL COUNSEL.....	7
DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE FOR MORAL INDISCRETION.....	7
QUESTIONS.....	7

PREFACE

We believe it is God alone who calls, anoints and appoints an individual into ministry. As such, Provident Network is merely an earthly witness of a Divine work. We do not believe there is inherent value, status, worth, or importance in one type of credential over another. Each license or ordination is simply the recognition of God's calling and the degree of participation in that calling. An ordination does not imply greater authority, validity, or superiority. Conversely, a Christian Worker's Permit does not imply inferiority or lesser value. It is to be perfectly clear to the applicant that credentials received are an acknowledgement of divine calling, based upon the evidence of participation in that calling.

TENETS OF FAITH

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally coexistent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
3. We believe in the deity of Jesus, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection to eternal life in heaven for believers and the resurrection to damnation for unbelievers.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in Jesus.
8. We believe in the baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.
9. We believe in healing as God's will for mankind.
10. We believe in the corporate worship of believers in a local church.
11. We believe in witnessing to our faith.
12. We believe in stewardship of all assets evidenced in tithing, offerings, etc.
13. We believe in the second coming of Jesus.

Further questions on these "Tenets of Faith" are answered by scriptural explanation in The Believer's Handbook by Dr. Lester Sumrall.

ORDINANCES

1. Water baptism for all born-again believers and those who come back to God.
2. The Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

SECTION I CREDENTIALS

- I. Ministerial credentials offered:
- A. Christian Worker Permit: Those persons who have been approved as having met the qualifications in Section III, paragraph A. This permit is jointly issued through applicant's local church.
 - B. Licensing: Those persons who have been approved as having met the qualifications in Section III, paragraph B.
 - C. Ordination: Those persons who have been approved as having met the qualifications in Section III, paragraph C and who have been licensed with Provident Network for at least two years.
- II. Licensing and Ordination are granted through Provident Network. In order for credentials to be transferred from another organization, they must be approved by the Provident Network Advisory Board.

SECTION II MEMBERSHIP

Provident Network offers membership in the network to ministers who wish to retain their credentials with other organizations but desire the fellowship, vision, resources, and benefits that are afforded through Provident Network.

SECTION III QUALIFICATIONS

All candidates applying for credentials or membership in Provident Network must give evidence of:

- *A Born-again experience (John 3:3).
- *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).
- *A Spirit-filled life (Ephesians 5:18).
- *A Divine call to the ministry (Titus 1:7). In addition, all candidates for licensing or ordination must:
 - A. For Membership:
 - 1) Evidence spiritual and chronological maturity.
 - 2) Be actively involved in the ministry of helps.
 - 3) Have practical experience in ministering to others.
 - 4) Be in agreement with the "Ordinances" and "Tenets of Faith" of this association.
 - 5) Cooperate with all of Sections IV, V, VI, VII.
 - 6) Obligatory attendance at a regional meeting or summer campmeeting of Provident Ministries (or have valid reason for not attending).
 - 7) Participation in the afternoon briefing session to be held prior to the commissioning service.
 - 8) Recognition that membership will be revoked if three annual campmeeting in

sequence are missed.

B. For a Christian Worker's Permit:

- 1) Evidence spiritual and chronological maturity.
- 2) Be actively involved in the ministry of helps.
- 3) Have practical experience in ministering to others.
- 4) Be in agreement with the "Ordinances" and "Tenets of Faith" of this association.
- 5) Cooperate with all of Sections IV, V, VI, VII.
- 6) Obligatory attendance at a regional meeting or summer campmeeting of Provident Ministries (or have valid reason for not attending).
- 7) Participation in the afternoon briefing session to be held prior to the commissioning service.
- 8) Recognition that Christian Worker's Permit will be revoked if three annual campmeeting in sequence are missed.

C. For Licensing:

- 1) Evidence spiritual and chronological maturity.
- 2) Purpose to devote time to the work of the ministry.
- 3) Have adequate practical experience in preparing and/or preaching the Word of God.
- 4) Be in agreement with the Ordinances and Tenets of Faith of this association.
- 5) Cooperate with all of Sections IV, V, VI, VII.
- 6) Obligatory attendance at a regional meeting or summer campmeeting of Provident Ministries (or have valid reason for not attending).
- 7) Participation in the afternoon briefing session to be held prior to the commissioning service.
- 8) Recognition that license will be revoked if three annual campmeeting in sequence are missed.

D. For Ordination:

- 1) Evidence spiritual and chronological maturity.
- 2) Be engaged in full-time ministry for two consecutive years.
- 3) Be in agreement with the "Ordinances" and "Tenets of Faith" of this association.
- 4) Cooperate with all of Sections IV, V, VI, VII.
- 5) Obligatory attendance at a regional meeting or summer campmeeting of Provident Ministries (or have valid reason for not attending).
- 6) Participation in the afternoon briefing session to be held prior to the commissioning service.
- 7) Recognition that ordination will be revoked if three annual campmeeting in sequence are missed.

SECTION IV
PROCEDURE FOR SECURING MEMBERSHIP, CHRISTIAN
WORKER PERMIT, LICENSE, AND ORDINATION

1. Applicant must meet qualifications of Section III, paragraph A, B or C.
2. Applicant must complete and return an application form.
3. Applicant must enclose the \$50.00 nonrefundable application fee payable to Provident Ministries, along with annual dues of \$75.00 as stated on the dues schedule.
4. Applicant will be notified usually within 30 days of the Director's decision. Provident Ministries will verify references, previous support, and any involvement in our ministry.

SECTION V
PROCESS TO RENEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

All ministers who hold credentials or membership with PROVIDENT NETWORK need to renew their membership annually. Continuance of credentials and membership is subject to approval by Provident Network on the following conditions:

1. Return the "Membership Annual Report," which will be mailed to you by Provident Ministries, along with annual dues within 30 days from the time received.
2. Licensed and ordained ministers must preach at least 20 times during the year or be actively involved in full-time ministry such as Minister of Music, Minister of Visitation, Minister of Education, etc.; be employed in a church staff/management position; or be engaged in one of the five-fold ministries, etc.
3. After Provident Network has received and reviewed your "Membership Annual Report," you will be notified by mail of our decision, usually within 30 days.

NOTE: Preaching is considered to be evangelistic or teaching-type meetings carried on either outside or within your church where you are recognized as an associate elder, evangelist, etc., or as otherwise engaged in valid ministry.

SECTION VI
MINISTERIAL ETHICS

- A. All ministers shall be agreeable with Provident Network in matters of doctrine, conduct and ministry.
- B. All ministers affiliated with Provident Network are expected to work and cooperate with Provident Ministries programs and policies. Failure to do so may be cause for bringing their ministry and affiliation under review.
- C. Ministers must renew their credentials annually within the specified time in order to maintain affiliation with Provident Network.
- D. Ministers shall refrain from identifying themselves with any secret orders or societies.
- E. Normal and widely-accepted standards of ethical conduct are expected. The Scriptures prevail whenever questions arise.

SECTION VII
TYPE OF SUPPORT TO PROVIDENT MINISTRIES

- A. Churches, ministries and ministers are expected to contribute to Provident Network Ministries, its projects and programs in accordance with the principle of reciprocity as stated in Philippians 4:14-17 as evidence of true partnership and relationship.
- B. These contributions may be in the form of “gifts-in-kind” such as literature, foodstuffs, supplies, and equipment, or other ministry related resources; or direct financial contributions such as special gifts and offerings, monthly missions support, and tithing ministry income. These might include mutually agreed upon programs, such as Provident Ministries Feeding the Nations and special projects, such as food drives.

SECTION VIII
TERMINATION OF CREDENTIALS

- A. Withdrawn: A minister who has elected to remove himself, and against whom there are no charges filed, shall be listed as having withdrawn.
- B. Suspended: A minister may be suspended from the fellowship because of general inefficiency in the ministry, a failure or inability to correctly represent an acceptable testimony, or for a contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- C. Lapsed: A minister’s credentials shall be deemed as “lapsed” in all cases where a minister fails to renew his credentials in a timely fashion. Credentials may be renewed upon completion of requirements as stated in Section V.

SECTION IX
ADVISORY BOARD

The Provident Network operates under the authority of the Board of Directors of the Provident Ministries with advisors that are deemed necessary by said Board. The Provident Network Advisory Board:

- A. Shall consist of the regional directors of Provident Network.
- B. Duties:
 - 1) Keeping an overview of the entire organization.
 - 2) Providing spiritual leadership in executive decision making and problem solving.
 - 3) Maintaining a standard of excellence in network direction, organization and finance.
 - 4) Deliberating discipline. When deliberating, the representatives will be augmented by appointing four additional members. Rehabilitation, as appropriate, will be part of the board’s recommendation. In deliberating discipline, the board is free to ask counsel and advice from affiliated members at large, but is not accountable thereto. The board reports to Provident Ministries, and holds all deliberation confidential.

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL COUNSEL

Provident Network is not responsible for the legal or financial operations of any organization affiliated with it. Competent legal/financial counsel is the responsibility of the individual organization.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE FOR MORAL INDISCRETION

In the event that a Provident Network member falls into moral indiscretion, we request that the following be done in a timely and orderly manner:

As soon as the indiscretion is verified, Provident Network will send a ministry representative to pray and counsel with the member in question as well as to maintain the spiritual covering of the church or ministry. The ministry representative will also submit a report of his/her findings to the Provident Network office. Financial reimbursements for travel costs incurred by Provident Network or its representative will be the responsibility of the ministry in question. The member must submit a written account to the Provident Network office within one week. Provident Network expects full cooperation from the member with regards to counsel and discipline. The member will refrain from ministry both in and out of the pulpit until notified by Provident Network. It is our duty and desire to see godly restoration take place. In order for restoration to occur, we believe repentance, humility, and submission to counsel must first be evident. Ultimately, we believe that through proper covering and accountability, a fallen minister can return to a position of authority and continue to faithfully pursue the call of God. Our desire is to reflect Christ in matters of discipline, and to honor Him. "Brethren, if any person is overtaken in misconduct or sin of any sort, you who are spiritual- who are responsive to and controlled by the Spirit- should set him right and restore and reinstate him, without any sense of superiority and with all gentleness." (Galatians 6:1 Amplified)

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the Provident Network, please feel free to call our office at 574-968-1566.