

The Value of Ministerial Credentials with the PAOC

The word *credential* has its root in the Latin word *credere* which means *entrusted, or believable*. A central purpose of ministerial credentials is that they provide leaders with *credibility*. Nobody is perfect, but a person with a ministerial credential has voluntarily submitted to a mutual authority and adheres to mutually agreed shared values. They can be trusted and believed.



A ministerial credential should be understood within a specific ministerial context. The assurance it provides has meaning to those it is intended to serve and who value the specific standards it represents. It also commits the credential holder to specific responsibilities associated with that organization. One important way The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada serves its relationally based missional

family is by providing ministerial credentials to those called to serve among us. Ministerial credentials among us then, are best understood as ministerial credentials with us, as they represent alignment and submission to our shared missional and doctrinal values.

A PAOC ministerial credential is rooted in biblical principles and is consistent with the historic practice of the church (Galatians 2:6-10). It acknowledges a divine call and commission, the qualifications of a person to minister in the PAOC, affirms character as a Christian leader and extends fellowship blessings and opportunities. At the same time, it expresses a credential holder's affirmation of dedication, faithfulness, and commitment to the Lord and to their colleagues, and invokes mutual divine enablement for success in life and ministry.

Any authority and power for ministry are conferred directly by Christ through the Holy Spirit. The living Lord of the Church continues to make direct, dynamic appointments in His body today. A credential is a collegial recognition of what Christ has done affirming:

1. The genuineness of one's experiences in Christ and in Spirit life
2. The authenticity of one's spiritual, moral, emotional, and social maturity
3. The reality of their divine call
4. The correctness of their doctrine
5. The adequacy of their preparation and practical abilities, and
6. The acceptability of their commitment to purposes, policies, and ministries

Value to the PAOC Credential Holder

A ministerial credential provides recognition across the Fellowship for personal, professional, ministerial, and spiritual accomplishment.

A ministerial credential opens opportunities of ministry in the PAOC Fellowship and beyond. It is an essential key for acceptance in various pastoral, missional, administrative, teaching, chaplaincy, and other ministries.

A ministerial credential may qualify the minister to meet legal requirements for certain functions of ministry such as weddings, and serving on certain community, provincial, and federal boards, or agencies, etc.

A ministerial credential may result in recognition from the Canadian Revenue Agency of those qualified to receive the Clergy Housing Allowance deduction.

Value to the PAOC Fellowship

Ministerial credentials benefit the Fellowship by ensuring that its ministries are served by individuals who are appropriately qualified. They also provide a checkpoint to ensure a ministry has sufficient and correct understanding of Bible content and doctrine to strengthen the body of Christ.



A PAOC ministerial credential further benefits the Fellowship by encouraging an effective level of practical ministerial functions of leadership, preaching/teaching, worship leading, administration of the ordinances and the performance of ceremonies, pastoral care and administrative oversight for departments, deacons, committees, staff, finances, public relations, building programs, etc.

Our Pentecostal Family is further benefitted by ascertaining that its ministers have an acceptable knowledge of and commitment to the shared missional and doctrinal values as well as the policies and programs of the PAOC.

We are most grateful for the pastors and leaders who hold PAOC ministerial credentials. While serving our Fellowship they are ultimately serving the Lord and His Kingdom with excellence and distinction. We also gratefully acknowledge the capable clergy record administrators across the PAOC ensuring maximum value of PAOC credentials.