

**Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms
Credentials Committee**

**Proposed Text
Spring 2022 (rev. 20220526)**

Introduction

The Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms shall establish an on-going Credentials Committee consisting of at least three members, giving consideration to geographical and constituency representation. The Committee shall be the first official contact for a candidate requesting accreditation, an association licence, or seeking ordination.

This committee shall be a nurturing one, assisting the candidate to meet the standards desired within the CABF as stated below. It shall advise the CABF of any application for ordination and the need for an Ordination Examining Council.

1.0 General Principles

There is a difference between Licensing, Ordination, and Accreditation. In the first instance, Licensing and Ordination are the primary purview of the local church. Congregations are the first body to recognize gifts for ministry and call ministers to service. However, as an Association of churches, CABF can collaborate with congregations and ministers through a process to support churches in evaluating and supporting ministers. This process also provides ministers recognition within our Association of churches. Ministers licensed by a local church (see 2.1) can seek an Association Licence (see 2.2) and CABF can collaborate with churches in preparing, evaluating, and ordaining clergy (see 2.3).

Ordained and Lay Ministers can also seek accreditation through the CABF. Accreditation is a process by which CABF recognizes a minister's credentials for the ministry and enters into covenant with ministers to maintain professional standards. Through the CABF, Accredited Ministers can request to be added to Provincial or Territorial Vital Statistics or other appropriate Register or office lists of ministers authorised to officiate, conduct or solemnize marriages.

1.1 The criteria for Accredited Ministers of the CABF are based on the following general principles:

(a) Educational credentials are not granted by the CABF but may be recognized by the CABF. Educational and professional preparation and degrees for an ordained ministry are provided by seminaries and colleges accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, or other equivalent academic bodies outside of Canada and the United States as approved by the Association upon successful request by the candidate.

(b) Local Baptist churches are the only ecclesial bodies that can authorize and perform ordinations. The CABF is willing to advise congregations on the suitability of a candidate for ordination, but the decision belongs to the congregation. The CABF will recognize the ordination of those whom they recommend to local churches for ordination based on this criterion.

(c) Authorization to perform ministry or to carry out particular ministerial acts and services (for example, preaching, counselling, pastoral care, weddings, etc.) is the responsibility of the congregation or agency in whose name the ministry occurs. Ministers are also responsible for ensuring that such authorization exists. See section 5.0 for authorization to officiate, conduct or solemnize marriages.

(d) Ministers credentialed by the CABF are required to know and understand the expected standards, values, and ethical behaviour of this privilege. Accredited ministers shall be required to accept the criteria outlined in this policy, including professional standards and disciplinary procedures.

1.2 Ministers are expected to affirm and live by our CABF covenant:

Being led as we believe by the Holy Spirit,
and in response to the call of God in Jesus Christ
to be disciples and servants in the world, we as
individuals and churches who cherish historic
Baptist principles, freedoms, and traditions,
humbly commit that in our life together:

We will respect and defend the freedom and the responsibility of
individuals and local churches to interpret and live the call of God in every
aspect of their individual and shared lives, led by God's Spirit, informed by
the Scriptures, and without coercion from the state or any ecclesiastical
body;

We will support and uphold one another in mutual respect and love, and
remember one another in prayer;

We will affirm and celebrate participation in the whole Church of Jesus
Christ, worshipping and working together to witness to, and to further, the
reign of God in our lives and in our world;

We will create opportunities for exploration of doctrinal, ethical, and social
issues, entering into dialogue with one another, and with those beyond
our fellowship, in a spirit of tolerance, respect, and love;

We will make the worship of God primary in all our gatherings;

We will strive, when we gather, to create times and places of refuge and
renewal, health and wholeness, in which all are welcome.

We will seek to be equitable and to act justly in all our dealings;

And we will foster partnerships within the Fellowship, and with other people of faith, in order that we might live out the intent of this Covenant freely in community.

1.3 Ministers are expected to affirm and live by the CABF clergy covenant:

By the grace of God, we, united in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, promise to uphold our calling to the Order of Ministry, the priesthood of all believers, and to respect diversity of opinions in both faith and practice.

We pledge to maintain the highest ethical standard expected of clergy and not to abuse any privileges offered to us.

We will maintain confidentiality as much as the Law allows.

We are determined to promote ecumenical relationships within the Church of Christ and to explore clearer understandings with those of other or no faith.

We promise to support our ordained fellowship in times of joy or trial, success or failure, and to promote the unity of the ministry in any way open to us.

It is our prayer that our behaviour and stewardship will never betray the calling or expectations of Jesus Christ, or of each other.

We commit ourselves to the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments entrusted to us by God in Jesus Christ, to be faithful in prayer, study and proclamation, and to build up the Church of Christ in faith and practice, so help us God.

Amen.

2.0 Licensing and Ordination

The Christian Ministry is an office of the highest honour and great responsibility. Those serving in the ministry should be aware of many responsibilities under their care: conducting faithful worship, effective proclaiming of the Gospel, knowledgeable pastoral counselling, wise directing of spiritual life, modelling a sensitive Christian life, not to mention the many secondary but important calls for service. The Office of Minister was established by the Early Church, grounded in the New Testament, and requires one to have a personal and living faith in Jesus Christ. Each Minister must have a distinct sense of a Call to the Ministry, given through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

A Minister displays the embodiment of Christian character, an ability to work harmoniously with the people and offer confident and informed leadership in the multiple aspects of Church life. Also manifested is an awareness of the need for continual spiritual and mental growth

When a congregation is considering a candidate for their Ministry, it is wise to investigate thoroughly so that they may be assured the candidate exhibits all of the above and represents them in an effective and engaging manner.

2.1 Church Licence to Minister

(a) A Licence to Minister is granted by the congregation where that-candidate's membership is held. The local congregation's Licence to Minister is, in effect, both an affirmation and a recommendation. Normally, the Board of Deacons (or 'Senior Board') of that congregation facilitates this licensing process.

(b) It is required that persons being considered for such a licence to have preached or taught in their own churches so that it may be determined whether they have gifts in the area of the desired ministry.

(c) There ought to be a review as to what they have been doing within the church.

(d) They should tell of their conversion, call to the ministry and of their faith in Jesus Christ. They should demonstrate servant-leadership ability.

(e) They should have the ability to establish caring relationships with people.

(f) Their lifestyles, including family relationships and ethics, should be taken into consideration and there should be evidence of faithfulness in work habits.

(g) There should be evident progress in biblical knowledge, spiritual growth, understanding of the ministry and Baptist principles and faith expression.

(h) A Licence to Minister should be renewed each year by the congregation as a part of their continual care and nurturing of their candidate.

(i) The Credentials Committee recommends that the congregation that grants such a Licence to Minister establish ongoing support and counsel, and accountability from the candidate.

(j) Receiving a Licence to Minister is a first step in the process toward accreditation.

2.2 CABF Association Licence to Minister

(a) It is understood that a CABF Association Licence to Minister indicates the confidence of the CABF in the candidate to be responsible in preaching and service; however, any congregation that applies for the candidate's Association Licence to Minister retains the responsibility to grant any other privileges of Ministry.

(b) Criteria expected from the candidate of a CABF Association Licence to Minister include the following:

- i. That the candidate maintain a valid and current Church Licence.

ii. That the candidate exhibit acceptable activity, in some form of pastoral or church responsibility.

iii. That the candidate indicates intention to pursue education in preparation for ministry.

iv. That the candidate should agree with generally accepted basic Baptist principles. For reference, refer to works such as *Basic Baptist Beliefs* by Gordon C. Warren, as appears on the CABF website, or *The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms* by Walter Shurden.

(c) A CABF Association Licence to Minister must be renewed annually. The candidate must appear before the Credentials Committee in person each year and shall furnish satisfactory evidence of progress in studies, service responsibility fulfilled, and continued loyalty to the aims and purposes of the CABF.

2.3 Ordination

(a) For those seeking Ordination, the next step for the candidate working within a congregation or institution is to have a congregation request the CABF to call an Ordination Examining Council for Ordination. The Officers of the CABF will be responsible for organizing the Ordination Examining Council in consultation with the ordaining church. The CABF is willing to establish an Ordination Examining Council for Ordination for candidates that meet its criteria for accreditation (see section 3.0) and where reasonably possible the Ordination Examining Council will convene in the ordaining church. In order to appear before a CABF Ordination Examining Council a candidate must have the recommendation of the CABF Credentials Committee.

(b) The Ordination Examining Council shall consist of:

i. The President of the CABF, or alternative (normally the Vice President), and the CABF Secretary, who will keep a record of the proceedings.

ii. The Chair of the Credentials Committee, or designate.

iii. Three representatives appointed by the ordaining church.

iv. Six representatives appointed by the CABF Council, giving consideration to broad representation from CABF member churches.

(c) The Ordination Examining Council shall be open to non-voting visitors, including ministers and representatives of CABF churches. Visitors will not be present during or participate in Council deliberations following the period of examination.

(d) The President of the CABF, or alternative, shall be the Chair of the Ordination Examining Council.

(e) The President of the CABF shall negotiate with the requesting congregation and the candidate sufficient and convenient times for the Examination. A

church is encouraged to request the assistance and participation of the CABF in the ordination service.

(f) At least two months' notice shall be given to all concerned: the candidate, the members of the Examining Council, the requesting congregation, each CABF congregation, and individual CABF members. This shall be the responsibility of the President of the CABF.

(g) The Ordination Examining Council agenda includes:

i. Prayer of Invocation.

ii. Introduction of the Candidate (Chair of Credentials Committee).

iii. Report of the Credentials Committee regarding the candidate.

iv. Report by a representative of the congregation applying.

v. A Statement describing the candidate's Call to Ministry, views of Christian doctrine and their Practice of Ministry (approximately 1,500 words).

vi. A period of questioning of the candidate by the Ordination Examining Council (led by someone designated by the President of CABF in advance of the convening of the Ordination Examining Council).

(h) After a thorough questioning, the Candidate and visitors shall be asked to withdraw to enable a full discussion amongst the Council. The Candidate should be prepared to return to clarify any issue which the Council deems necessary.

(i) For a Candidate to be recommended for ordination, an affirmative vote with a two-thirds majority of the Ordination Examining Council is required.

(j) The Candidate is then informed by the Chair of the results of the deliberations of the Examining Council, accompanied with prayer and sage advice. This recommendation shall be reported to the church making the application.

2.4 Ordination Candidate from Other Jurisdictions/Denominations

It is recognized that a CABF congregation may call to a ministry position a non-ordained person who has trained in another Baptist or non-Baptist jurisdiction. If the Church and candidate desire that the CABF facilitate the process towards ordination, the candidate may apply to the Credentials Committee, which will determine what, if any, steps should be completed before making a recommendation to appear before an Ordination Examining Council. The Credentials Committee will use the CABF criteria for accreditation as a basis for its decision.

3.0 Criteria for CABF Accreditation

CABF has two tracks toward accreditation.

Ordination Track: Traditionally, the Church has been served by ordained clergy who have completed a formal course of study, most typically an M.Div., and who have dedicated their vocational lives to the ministry. Ordained clergy can receive CABF accreditation either by advancing through the credentialing system to ordination or by applying to have their accreditation by a body acceptable to the CABF recognized by the CABF. In all cases, specific core, educational, professional, ministerial, and ethical standards, as outlined below, must be met. Verification of achievement will be through written papers, interviews, references, and individual evaluations.

Accredited Lay Minister Track: The on-going ministry of local churches is sometimes sustained by the leadership of non-ordained laypersons who carry out the ministerial functions of worship, teaching, administration, and pastoral care. Despite a deep commitment, and valuable previous vocational experience, the lay leader often has limited theological training, and is not in a position because of age, family commitments, or other factors to pursue formal training.

The designation of Accredited Lay Minister recognizes the important contribution identified lay leaders make to the church life of the CABF constituency and the important role they play in the spiritual care and leadership of churches which often do not have the resources to employ a full-time minister. The designation is intended to assure a foundation of theological knowledge and skills in the practice of ministry that mirror the requirements of a theological degree (BD, BTh, MDiv) but without requiring commitment to an extended academic course of study. Although the requirements of the designation are not of the same breadth and depth as a formal degree, they are designed to assure that the lay leader has a basic knowledge of the subject areas, skills, and character required to serve as a Christian minister.

Those holding the designation of Accredited Lay Minister should be in a current leadership role in a ministerial setting (a church, chaplaincy, or agency) that requires significant, accountable ministerial leadership. Candidates should also hold a CABF Association Licence (see 2.2) prior to accreditation. The Accredited Lay Minister status must be renewed every five years.

3.1 Core Standards

A candidate seeking accreditation shall give evidence of

- (a) Participation and good standing within the CABF including a paid-up membership.
- (b) Willingness to adhere to the CABF Covenant and Clergy Covenant as found in 1.2 and 1.3 above.
- (c) Ministerial experience in a parish, chaplaincy, institution, or an agency setting with structures of accountability.
- (d) Acceptance of the principles of the CABF Objectives (as found in the CABF Constitution) and generally accepted Baptist Principles (as expressed in *Basic Baptist Beliefs* by Gordon C. Warren and posted on the CABF website).

(e) Completion of one year's mentorship, with a CABF ministerial colleague appointed by the Credentials Committee. Ordained clergy seeking recognition of their accreditation received in another jurisdiction may not be required to undertake a mentorship period. Mentoring involves a caring, collaborative partnership, reviewing the candidate's ministry in a comprehensive way. Mentorship shall include:

- i. Monthly consultation with the candidate.
- ii. Support and Counsel of the candidate in developing a vocational identity, and personal and spiritual growth.
- iii. Assist in preparing the candidate's Personal Statement in preparation for accreditation as a Lay Minister and/or ordination.
- iv. Quarterly updates by the mentor to the Chair of the Credentials Committee.
- v. At the conclusion of the probationary year, the mentor will provide a report and recommendation regarding the candidate's suitability for accreditation as a Lay Minister and/or ordination.

3.2 Professional Standards

A candidate seeking accreditation is expected to maintain:

- (a) Ministerial and theological integrity combined with a continuing exploration and discernment as one proceeds with ministry.
- (b) Continuing spiritual formation and growth.
- (c) Ability to work in ways that promote equity, collegiality and diversity.
- (d) Submission of a satisfactory criminal records check and Child abuse record upon application for accreditation.

3.3 Ministerial Standards

Accredited ministers are expected to carry out their duties with a high degree of competency. These duties may include the following:

- (a) **Worship:** Accredited ministers shall lead their congregations, or those under their care, in worship through preaching and liturgical forms suitable to the people that they may approach the presence of God to receive the gifts of God and to offer their lives in service in Christ's Name.
- (b) **Faith Formation and Education:** Accredited ministers shall teach, model and educate those under their care and act as advisors and spiritual resources.
- (c) **Denominational Responsibilities:** Accredited ministers participate in denominational councils, including those of the CABF, and support ecumenical and interfaith relationships.
- (d) **Pastoral Care:** Accredited ministers shall develop a systematic, proactive, and regular care for those within their ministry.

(e) **Self-Care:** Accredited ministers shall implement a system for their own, mental, physical, and spiritual health.

(f) **Community Outreach and Social Justice:** Accredited ministers shall reach out beyond the bounds of their own congregation or organization with the good news of the Gospel, healing, and promoting justice, and leading others under their care to do the same.

(g) **Leadership:** Accredited ministers shall be leaders in their ministerial setting, and as opportunity permits, in their community. They also should encourage and mentor lay leaders, work energetically and prophetically with boards and committees with which they are most closely associated, helping them effectively solve problems and accomplish goals.

(h) **Administration:** Accredited ministers shall ensure timely completion of tasks for which they are responsible, and delegate when appropriate. Accurate records of both the organization and the minister's personal duties shall be maintained. They are expected to know the legal obligations of their profession and Baptist polity.

(i) **Professional Development:** Accredited ministers are expected to participate in life-long learning appropriate to ministry, increasing their knowledge of current issues in theology, practice, ethics, and world events.

(j) **Cooperation with other Professions:** Accredited ministers shall be able to make appropriate referrals to other helping professionals and work in cooperation with those professionals.

3.4 Ethical Standards

Accredited ministers are called to conduct themselves for the greater good of others. Ministers are accountable personally and professionally to God and to the body of which they are a part.

The call to Ministry is a high and sacred calling, expressed through a life of service and modelled after the life of Jesus Christ. Implicit in the call to ministry are Christian principles for relationships with God, God's family and God's world. More specifically, accredited ministers are required to do the following:

(a) Demonstrate truthfulness, dependability, compassion, patience, diplomacy and integrity.

(b) Know their own limitations: to be open to the guidance, challenge and analysis of their ministry by others.

(c) Understand the visibility of their position within the wider community, and ensure their conduct upholds the ethical standards of their profession.

(d) Comply with all applicable Federal, Provincial, and Municipal laws, and encourage others to do the same, notwithstanding issues and actions involving justice.

- (e) Perform their duties faithfully using sound financial practices and good management skills. They are to protect the integrity of funds entrusted to their care and manage their personal funds with discipline.
- (f) Respect professional boundaries with fellow ministers, former congregations, and other professions.
- (g) Abide by the reasonable rules or regulations established by an employer for ethical conduct.
- (h) Never engage in sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of any nature.
- (i) Never engage in exploitation or abuse of persons.
- (j) Maintain the confidentiality of all personal matters revealed by others, unless otherwise required by law.

3.5a Educational Standards - Ordination Track

A candidate seeking accreditation is expected to complete:

- (a) An undergraduate degree from an accredited university.
- (b) A subsequent degree in theological and ministerial studies from a graduate educational institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada or the equivalent.
- (c) Appropriate studies in Clinical Pastoral Education approved by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (USA) or the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (Canada), or equivalent.

Note: When special circumstances prevail, such as age or experience, and these educational standards are not possible or feasible for a candidate to undertake, the completion of an appropriate programme of study specified by the Credentials Committee shall be deemed as sufficient for this section.

3.5b Educational Standards - Lay Minister Track

A candidate seeking accreditation is expected to complete:

- (a) An undergraduate degree or certificate from a recognized post-secondary institution.
- (b) In place of a recognized theological degree (BD, MDiv, BTh, etc.), the candidate is required to undertake a program of study to assure a basic understanding of the essential subject areas necessary to carry out an effective ministry. This also includes an understanding of the candidate's personal dynamics in leading, caring for, and working with others. A program of study that fits the candidate's ministerial and self-development needs will be designed by the candidate in conjunction with the candidate's mentor and approved by the Credentials Committee. The mode of study can be chosen from such formats as internet-based self-paced courses and presentations, podcasts, directed study and reading, and enrolment in formal credit courses. Courses are required in the following areas:

- i. Baptist History and Polity.
- ii. Old and New Testament, Theology, and the Practice of Ministry.
- iii. One unit of Supervised Pastoral Education (CPE/PCE) offered through the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care, or its equivalent (the focus of this requirement is self-reflection on the candidate's inter and intra-personal dynamics in ministering to others).

(c) The candidate is encouraged to select further studies relating to their ministerial interests and needs.

Note: When special circumstances prevail, such as age or experience, and these educational standards are not possible or feasible for a candidate to undertake, the completion of an appropriate programme of study specified by the Credentials Committee shall be deemed as sufficient for this section.

4.0 Discipline

Accredited Ministers shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the core beliefs, values, and mission of CABF, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

CABF Accredited Ministers shall work cooperatively within the CABF and within their placements to achieve the objectives of CABF as listed in the CABF Memorandum of Association (published on website).

If an individual, church, agency, or other party believes that a CABF accredited minister has not complied with the standards set out above, they may file a complaint with the Chair of the Credentials Committee. A complaint must be in writing. There are multiple avenues for filing a complaint:

(a) **Church or Agency:** When a complaint against a CABF accredited minister alleging a breach of standards as outlined in this document, comes to the attention of the leaders of the minister's church or agency those leaders will inform the Chair of the Credentials Committee, who shall then report the complaint to the Credentials Committee.

If a complaint is filed, the minister's church or agency may provide a report, signed, and dated on behalf of the church or agency, which includes, but is not limited to, as much of the following information as possible:

- (i) The alleged act(s) of professional misconduct.
- (ii) Names of the party(ies) primarily affected.
- (iii) Name(s) of witness(es), if any.
- (iv) Any corroborating evidence of the allegation.

(b) **Person(s) Affected or Third Parties:** A complaint may be forwarded to the Chair of the Credentials Committee by:

- (i) the person(s) primarily affected, or

(ii) a third party, such as, but not limited to a church, an agency, employer, or CABF officer with pertinent knowledge of the alleged breach of standards. If the complainant is not the person(s) primarily affected, the Credentials Committee, where applicable, shall undertake an interview with the person(s) primarily affected and invite the person(s) to submit a written, signed, and dated statement of the events.

(c) **Investigation Without a Written Complaint:** The Committee may decide to investigate the possible violation of standards without a formal written complaint.

(d) **Self Reporting:** When a CABF accredited minister is aware that an allegation of professional misconduct has been made against them to the leaders of the local church or agency, or the accredited person confesses to professional misconduct, it is the responsibility of that accredited person to inform the Chair of the Credentials Committee.

Note: If a complainant, or the Chair of the Credentials Committee, believes a conflict of interest exists for the Chair, they may contact any other member of the Credentials Committee to make a complaint.

4.1 Process

All investigations will be conducted in a non-confrontational manner and the process will be marked by confidentiality, and a respect for all parties.

(a) If a complaint or a confession is received, the Credentials Committee shall determine if the complaint or confession is within its mandate and, if so, it will be dismissed or accepted for action. If the allegation or confession is dismissed, the complainant or self-reporting individual shall be advised.

(b) If a complaint is accepted for action, the minister involved, the complainant, and the governing board of the local church or agency shall be informed. When an investigation is deemed necessary, the Credentials Committee shall hold such an investigation.

(c) If there is serious misconduct involved in the complaint, the Credentials Committee may immediately suspend a minister's credentials until a matter has been thoroughly investigated and an outcome established.

(d) If there is serious misconduct involved in the complaint, the Credentials Committee may notify the appropriate authorities.

(e) When an investigation has been initiated by the CABF, the minister under investigation is obligated to cooperate with the investigation, including talking with the Credentials Committee and releasing that person's employer to talk with the Credentials Committee. Failure to cooperate may result in the revocation of that person's credentials.

(f) The Committee may appoint a person or group to conduct an investigation, which shall at the conclusion of the investigation report the findings to the

Credentials Committee, which shall then initiate one, or a combination, of the following actions:

- (i) Informal resolution.
- (ii) Counsel or caution of the minister.
- (iii) Reprimand of the minister.
- (iv) Suspension of accreditation.
- (v) Removal of accreditation.
- (vi) Such other determination as the Credentials Committee deems just.

(g) If an accredited minister's credentials are resigned while under investigation for a violation of CABF accreditation standards, the individual's resignation shall be classified and publicized as "resigned while under investigation."

(h) Accredited ministers who have resigned while under investigation and who wish to be reinstated, must take part in a reconstitution of the investigation until it is completed.

(i) Throughout the investigatory process, a complete set of records shall be maintained. These records shall contain, but are not limited to, the name of the person making the complaint, the nature and details of the complaint, the date and substance of interviews held, correspondence with parties involved, and the substance of discussions, shall be kept by the secretary of the Credentials Committee.

(j) Such an investigatory process requires a clear sense of fairness and 'natural justice' as evidenced by the following actions:

(i) The minister under investigation shall be advised of the nature and source of the allegation if the allegation is accepted for action (see 4.1.a).

(ii) The minister shall be allowed to review the evidence gathered by the committee.

(iii) The minister shall be afforded an opportunity to respond to the committee.

(iv) The minister should be advised of the committee's decision in a timely manner.

(v) Confidentiality of all personal matters revealed during the process shall be maintained by the committee and encouraged by all those involved, unless otherwise required by law, excluding the publication of the final results as stated in 4.2.

(k) The final action of the Credentials Committee, shall be reported to the minister accused, the complainant, an appropriate senior officer of the individual's employer, and the CABF Council.

4.2 Publication

When a final decision is reached to suspend or remove a minister's credentials, it is considered public and will be communicated by the President of the CABF to the minister, the complainant, the minister's employer, associated Baptist bodies, and after 30 days posted on the CABF web site.

5.0 Authorization to Officiate, Conduct or Solemnize Marriages

On the recommendation of the Credentials Committee, CABF accredited ministers may be listed with their respective Provincial or Territorial Department of Vital Statistics or other applicable Register or office for authorization to officiate, conduct or solemnize marriages.

Accredited Lay Ministers must retain their accreditation status with CABF to remain on the list of their respective Provincial or Territorial Department of Vital Statistics or other applicable Register or office for authorization to officiate, conduct or solemnize marriages.

Under special circumstances, those in the mentorship year for accreditation may request authorization to officiate, conduct or solemnize marriages when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) The candidate has been deemed fit in preparation and experience.
- (b) The candidate has the approval of the congregation or agency which the candidate is serving as a minister or chaplain.
- (c) The candidate has been accepted as a candidate for accreditation by the Credentials Committee.
- (d) The candidate possesses a CABF Licence to Minister.
- (e) The candidate holds a ministry position requiring the candidate to officiate, conduct or solemnize marriages.