



Pastoral Ordination Application

2023 EDITION

This resource is intended to **EVALUATE** a man for pastoral ordination and should be submitted to the Local Church and then the District Exam Board Leaders as a formal request to **AFFIRM** a man in pastoral ministry.

INSPIRE Pastoral Ordination Application

Name _____ Age _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Have you previously applied for examination for local licensure or ordination in a Charis Fellowship Church?

Yes or No (If Yes Circle One: Licensure or Ordination)

Date _____ District _____

CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

1. How long have you been a Christian?

2. Give your personal testimony?

3. Why is your belief in Jesus so strategic to everything you do (in your personal life, church, your world, our Fellowship)?

4. Briefly explain your personal and family habit in devotional bible study and prayer.

CHURCH AFFILIATION RECORD

Please provide the name, location and dates of the church families you have primarily been connected to:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MEMBER (Y/N)</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATES</u>

FAMILY LIFE

1. Single ___ Married ___
2. If Married: Date _____ Place _____
3. Have you or your wife ever been divorced? _____
4. Have your wife provide her personal testimony summary.

- How supportive of your ministry is your wife? (check one)
- ___ Very supportive - encourages me to persevere when I'm discouraged.
 - ___ Supportive – helps when I ask.
 - ___ Accepting – allows me to minister without hindering me.
 - ___ Reluctant – occasionally discourages me to leave the ministry.

- To what extent is your spouse involved in your ministry? (check one)
- ___ Almost always leads some area of ministry.
 - ___ Occasionally leads a ministry.
 - ___ Almost always participates in some ministry.
 - ___ Sometimes participates in a ministry.
 - ___ Seldom participates in ministry but keeps the home fires burning.
 - ___ Never participates in ministry.

5. Briefly describe your strategy for maintaining a strong marriage

6. List children, if any:

NAME

AGE

IF SAVED AT WHAT AGE

7. Are there any family relationships that are broken? If so, explain and share what steps you have taken to restore that relationship.

CALL TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

1. Explain your call to Christian ministry.

2. What gifts has God given you for Christian ministry?

3. Why are you seeking Ordination?

EDUCATIONAL

1. What educational preparation have you had?

SCHOOL

DEGREE

MAJOR

DATE

2. Do you plan to take additional education work?

ETHICAL ISSUES

1. Explain your strategy for maintaining integrity in ministry:

2. How would you describe your financial strategy? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? **(Yes or No)**

3. In case of difficulties in your ministry, would you be willing to consult with your district examining board or another trusted pastor? **(Yes or No)**

4. What are your ideas as to how a minister should conduct himself toward women in and out of the church?

5. What is your personal view of the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, marijuana and narcotics?

6. Do you have any arrest record or felony convictions? **(Yes or No)**

Have you provided the local church with a criminal background and child abuse clearances. **(Yes or No)**

7. Have you ever been involved in a homosexual lifestyle? Yes ____ No ____

What is your personal point of view on such a lifestyle and same sex marriage?

8. Has an employer ever subjected you to investigation, disciplinary action, suspended, terminated or asked you to leave a job or volunteer position on the grounds of misconduct of any nature, unlawful sexual behavior or violation of an employer's sexual misconduct or harassment policy?

Yes ____ No ____

Have you ever been accused of any of these things in a non-employment setting?

Yes ____ No ____

Any comments?

9. If you answer "yes" to any of the questions in the following section, please attach a separate sheet indicating the nature of the suit, offense, date, court and disposition or other appropriate explanation.

a. Have you ever been involved in or convicted of child abuse?

Yes ____ No ____

b. Have you ever entered a plea of guilty, a plea of "no-contest" or has any court ever deferred further proceedings without entering a finding of guilty and placed you on a probation or in a public service or education program for any crime other than a minor traffic offense? Yes ____ or No ____

10. **Background Clearances – Provide a State Child Abuse History Certification, State Criminal Background Check Certification. If you have not lived in the state you are seeking ordination in for at least 10 years provide an FBI Criminal Background Clearance Certification.**

By signing below I give _____

(Name of Local Church)

permission to obtain background check information and review records of criminal history which I may have, and to obtain and review records I may have that indicate a history of abuse, neglect, threatened harm, or other maltreatment against children and/or adults. I understand that this information will only be used for consideration of a potential hire for a position at this local church.

Signed by _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

REFERENCES

Provide references from three people:

- (1) A Pastor/Elder who knows you well and whom you respect
- (2) A Christian Friend who knows you well and whom you respect
- (3) Someone who knows you well and whom you respect, who is currently unchurched (this form has been marked as "**Friend***" to indicate it is a different form with different questions for an unchurched person who may not be as familiar with church and Christianity)

*Reference Form Provided on next page.

Reference Form for Pastoral Ordination (Pastor/Elder)

_____ (**Applicants Name**) is applying for Pastoral Ordination in the Charis Fellowship and has given your name as a reference. We appreciate your prompt response to the following questions and want to assure you that all information received will be treated confidentially. References are very important to the Examination Board in determining the qualifications and character of an applicant. Family members and subordinates (employee/volunteer) are not acceptable as references. To qualify as a reference, you must have known the applicant for at least one year.

This reference is submitted by (**Your Name**)

How long have you personally known the applicant?

What is your relationship with the applicant?

Would you describe the applicant as Very Effective/ Somewhat Effective/ Not Effective in ministry? (**Circle one**)

Does the applicant work well with others? (**Yes or No**)

Explain how the applicant deals with conflict.

If you have a comfortable understanding of Christianity, would you say the applicant is living a life that reflects a desire to be like Jesus Christ? (**Yes or No or N/A**)

If you have ever observed the applicant preach a sermon, how would you evaluate the his ability to preach and/or teach? (Circle N/A if not observed)

If you have a comfortable understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ, how would you evaluate the applicant's ability to share the Gospel? (Circle N/A if you are not comfortable answering this question)

Describe the applicant's relationship with his wife and children (If applicable).

How would you describe the applicant's social skills?

How would you describe the applicant's work ethic?

How would you describe the applicant's leadership skills (Wisdom, Discernment, Responsibility, Vision)?

Are there any areas of behavior that you are aware of that could hinder the applicant's ability to lead in Christian ministry? (For example: Improper sexual behavior, drunkenness, unethical behavior)

If you were looking to hire a pastor or needed personal pastoral care, would you hire this candidate or desire the applicant to help during your time of need? **(Yes or No)**
Please explain:

Reference Form for Pastoral Ordination (Christian Friend)

_____ (**Applicants Name**) is applying for Pastoral Ordination in the Charis Fellowship and has given your name as a reference. We appreciate your prompt response to the following questions and want to assure you that all information received will be treated confidentially. References are very important to the Examination Board in determining the qualifications and character of an applicant. Family members and subordinates (employee/volunteer) are not acceptable as references. To qualify as a reference, you must have known the applicant for at least one year.

This reference is submitted by (**Your Name**)

How long have you personally known the applicant?

What is your relationship with the applicant?

Would you describe the applicant as Very Effective/ Somewhat Effective/ Not Effective in ministry? (**Circle one**)

Does the applicant work well with others? (**Yes or No**)

Explain how the applicant deals with conflict.

If you have a comfortable understanding of Christianity, would you say the applicant is living a life that reflects a desire to be like Jesus Christ? (**Yes or No or N/A**)

If you have ever observed the applicant preach a sermon, how would you evaluate the his ability to preach and/or teach? (Circle N/A if not observed)

If you have a comfortable understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ, how would you evaluate the applicant's ability to share the Gospel? (Circle N/A if you are not comfortable answering this question)

Describe the applicant's relationship with his wife and children (If applicable).

How would you describe the applicant's social skills?

How would you describe the applicant's work ethic?

How would you describe the applicant's leadership skills (Wisdom, Discernment, Responsibility, Vision)?

Are there any areas of behavior that you are aware of that could hinder the applicant's ability to lead in Christian ministry? (For example: Improper sexual behavior, drunkenness, unethical behavior)

If you were looking to hire a pastor or needed personal pastoral care, would you hire this candidate or desire the applicant to help during your time of need? **(Yes or No)**
Please explain:

Reference Form for Pastoral Ordination (Friend)

_____ (**Applicants Name**) is applying for Pastoral Ordination in the Charis Fellowship and has given your name as a reference. We appreciate your prompt response to the following questions and want to assure you that all information received will be treated confidentially. References are very important to the Examination Board in determining the qualifications and character of an applicant. Family members and subordinates (employee/volunteer) are not acceptable as references. To qualify as a reference, you must have known the applicant for at least one year.

This reference is submitted by (**Your Name**)

How long have you personally known the applicant?

What is your relationship with the applicant?

Would you describe the applicant as Very Effective/ Somewhat Effective/ Not Effective in leadership and service? (**Circle one**)

Does the applicant work well with others? (**Yes or No**)

Explain how the applicant deals with conflict.

Do you believe the applicant lives his life with integrity? (**Yes or No or N/A**)

How would you evaluate the applicant's ability to communicate well with others?
(Circle N/A if not observed)

If you have a comfortable understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ, how would you evaluate the applicant's ability to share the Gospel? (Circle N/A if you are not comfortable answering this question)

Describe the applicant's relationship with his wife and children (If applicable).

How would you describe the applicant's social skills?

How would you describe the applicant's work ethic?

How would you describe the applicant's leadership skills (Wisdom, Discernment, Responsibility, Vision)?

Are there any areas of behavior that you are aware of that could hinder the applicant's ability to serve and lead in the community where he lives?

If you had a personal crisis, is the applicant someone you would trust and approach in a time of need? **(Yes or No)**

Please explain:

For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of understanding or agreement:

1. **The One True God** - *There is one, and only one, true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally in three persons, never less and never more - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

2. **The Lord Jesus Christ** - *Jesus Christ is fully God, existing eternally. Everything was created by Him and for Him. His incarnation took place in the womb of a virgin. He became man, but never sinned. He died a substitutionary death to atone for sin, resurrected bodily, and ascended into heaven where He remains fully God and fully man, and is presently ministering until He comes again.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

3. **The Holy Spirit** - *The Holy Spirit is fully God, existing eternally. He is a person, and was involved in Creation and the inspiration of Scripture. His works of convicting and regenerating are essential to the believer's salvation. Believers are entitled to the benefit and joy of being filled and walking in the Spirit for empowerment in Christian life, service, and mission.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

4. **The Bible** - *The sixty-six books, and only these, known as the Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God. God's inspiration and superintendence of the writing of every word of the Bible guarantees that what was written is His Word and therefore authoritative, true, and without error in the original manuscripts. God preserves His Word, which is powerful and effective to accomplish His purpose of salvation among all nations. God's Spirit illumines the minds of believers in every culture to understand and apply the unchanging truth of Scripture in fresh and relevant ways for the benefit of the whole Body of Christ.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

5. **Humanity** - *God created man and woman in His image. As a result, all people are bearers of that image. However, Adam's subsequent sin resulted in a condition of spiritual death which all people since Adam have experienced, marring the beauty of God's image in them in every facet of life. This condition of spiritual death has rendered*

all people unable to save themselves, and leads to physical death. Therefore, new birth is necessary for salvation.

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

6. **Salvation** - *The salvation brought by God is a complete and eternal salvation by His grace alone, received as the free gift of God through personal faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, as he declares believers righteous in Him. True believers put their trust in Jesus Christ and are kept forever in the saving grace of God through His promises and His power. Every believer has been eternally justified, blessed with all spiritual blessings, and set free from all condemnation.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

7. **Church** - *There exists one true Church, which is called the Household of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. It is comprised of all true disciples of Jesus Christ, and is created by the action of the Holy Spirit. Tangible expressions of this true Church are found in local churches.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

8. **Christian Life** - *The believer is saved by faith alone. The faith that saves is expected to produce obedience and good works, which are the products of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The dimensions of biblical ethics are both individual and social, and extend to every facet of life. God faithfully continues to finish the work of sanctification, which He initiated in the life of each believer with the goal of Christlikeness. The Holy Spirit's works of baptizing, sealing, and indwelling occur simultaneously with regeneration and are the possession of every true believer. The Holy Spirit gives each believer a unique combination of spiritual gifts for the purpose of serving God and people.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

9. **Angels, Satan, Demons** - *God created a multitude of spiritual beings called "angels". Righteous angels continue to serve God and work both in the heavenly sphere and on earth. By his disobedience, Satan, a fallen angel, became the adversary of God and God's people, carrying with him a procession of demons. Jesus Christ has overcome Satan so that the final judgment and doom of Satan and his demons are certain.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

10. **Future Life** - *The dead will have a conscious existence in eternity and their bodies will be resurrected. Unbelievers, already under condemnation, will be sentenced to suffer eternal separation from God. Believers, already having been granted eternal life, will be*

judged and rewarded according to their works, and will experience a glorified, eternal existence in the presence of the Lord.

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

11. **Ordinances** – *Jesus Christ gave ordinances to the church: Baptism testifies to the reality of our salvation and identifies us as disciples of the Triune God. The Grace Brethren express this ordinance in triune immersion. Communion testifies to our justification, sanctification and glorification, which are accomplished through Jesus Christ. The Grace Brethren express this ordinance through the practice of these symbols: the bread and the cup, the washing of feet and the sharing of a meal.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

12. **The Return of Christ** – *The Church began on a particular day of Pentecost when our ascended Lord sent His Spirit to the waiting disciples. The present Church age will come to an end when our Lord comes in the air to remove His Church from the earth and fulfill His promises to Israel. The second coming of Christ is the personal, physical, and visible return from heaven of Christ to earth with His Church, to establish His thousand-year reign before instituting His eternal kingdom.*

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

13. **Biblical Relationships** – *The Triune God serves as the perfect and ultimate model for human relationships. As a result, each person has equal value yet different roles, which are expressed in loving unity. The differences in gifts and ministries are a manifestation of the multifaceted grace of God. As a result, we encourage all believers to use their gifts in ways that promote the unity, growth and ministry of the local church.*

Our obligation to love and respect one another and to practice the “one another” exhortations results in a commitment to work together and to resolve our differences for the good of individuals, churches and communities.

It is the responsibility of the local church to govern their own affairs while living and serving in community and interdependency with other churches. The mandate and urgency to fulfill the Great Commission leads us to seek ways to cooperate with one another and with likeminded Christians on the local, regional and global levels.

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

14. **Biblical Mission** – *God's plan for this age is best summarized in Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations. This includes the evangelistic call to reconciliation with God by means of the completed work of Christ and the lifelong pursuit of obedience to God by means of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.*

God's plan for this age includes the recognition, training and releasing of spiritually

qualified and appropriately trained leaders. While the specific gifts, abilities and responsibilities of leaders may vary, all leaders must serve as servants of God, shepherds of God's people and stewards of God's resources.

God's plan for this age is most fully expressed through establishing healthy churches. Although practices may vary between cultures, healthy local churches are comprised of believers in Christ who assume a mutual commitment to worship, learning, service, prayer and witness.

God's plan for this age includes our responsibility to express the compassion of Christ through proclaiming the Gospel in words while loving in deeds. This demands a commitment to finding creative and practical ways to address the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of a fallen humanity.

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT I BELIEVE

Are you able to cooperate harmoniously and walk with integrity within the Charis Fellowship Family:

- a. That is part of the Evangelical community.
- b. Whose ordinances are triune immersion and threefold communion.
- c. Whose eschatology follows a pre-millennial hermeneutic.
- d. That believes the eldership of the church has been given to men.
- e. That believes in the security of the believer.

YES _____ NO _____