

**Requirements** – A person who has demonstrated a divine call to ministry and is elected or appointed to a leadership position is recognized as a commissioned minister when all of the following requirements have been satisfied:

1. Completion of a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Bible or religion; or a minimum of three years of full time employment in one of the ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
2. Recipient of a commissioned minister license or credential.
3. Elected to serve in a position of spiritual leadership normally held by a minister.
4. Elected and currently serving as a local elder with three years of prior serve in that capacity, or serving in an evangelistic or pastoral capacity.
5. Ordained as a local elder.

**Authorized Ministerial Functions** – A commissioned minister in leadership position is authorized by the conference to perform substantially all the functions of the ordained minister within the territory of the organization he/she serves. The functions that are **excluded** are those listed in the Church Manual as follows:

- Organizing of a church
- Uniting churches
- Ordaining local elders and deacons

**Annual Review** – A licensed commissioned minister's leadership progress, professional development and spiritual growth will be reviewed annually by the conference where the individual serves in a leadership position.

**Authorization Withdrawn** – The authorization to serve as a commissioned minister and to perform substantially all the functions of an ordained minister may be withdrawn by the conference where the individual serves in a leadership position.

**Commissioned Minister Credential** – A licensed commissioned minister is ordinarily granted a commissioned minister credential after five years of denominational service.

**Commissioned as Pastors and Evangelists** – The primary task of a commissioned minister is pastoring and preaching of the Word. It should therefore be understood by those accepting commissioning and who are engaged in specialized ministries such as administration, teaching, and departmental leadership, that they may be reassigned by the Church at its option to pastoral or evangelistic duties.