

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS IN PASTORAL POSITIONS – ROLE AND STATUS (L 21)

L-2

Requirements – An employee in pastoral positions is recognized as a commissioned minister when all the following prerequisites have been satisfied:

1. Completion of the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Bible or religion plus nine quarters in the Seventh-day Adventists Theological Seminary, or two years of employment in ministerial or pastoral work, or a total of two years of seminary training and employment in ministerial or pastor work. Until this prerequisite has been met, the person will receive a missionary license.
2. Recipient of a commissioned minister license.
3. Appointment by the conference to a ministerial or pastoral responsibility.
4. Election as a church elder in the church, or named in the company to which he/she is assigned.
5. Ordained as a local elder.

Authorized Ministerial Functions – A commissioned minister is authorized by the conference to perform substantially all the religious functions within the scope of the tenets and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the members in the church or churches to which the minister is assigned and elected as a church elder. A commissioned minister who serves as an institutional chaplain, and is ordained as a church elder, may also perform these functions for persons served by the institutions. 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

A commissioned minister may perform wedding ceremonies or baptisms outside of his/her pastoral district if authorized to do so by the conference president. If the ceremony is to be conducted in the territory of another conference, it will require the approval of both conference presidents.

Annual Review – The leadership progress, professional development and spiritual growth of a commissioned minister will be reviewed annually by the conference.

Authorization Withdrawn – A commissioned minister's authorization to serve as a ministerial employee may be withdrawn by the conference.

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