

LICENSED MINISTER – ROLE AND STATUS (L 20)

Requirements – A person is recognized as a licensed 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 Adventist Theological Seminary, or two years of employment in ministerial or pastor work, or a total of two years of seminary training and employment in ministerial or pastor work. Until this prerequisite has been met, a missionary license will be issued.
2. Recipient of a ministerial 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 is assigned.
5. Ordained as a local church elder.

Authorized Ministerial Functions – A licensed minister is authorized by the conference to perform all the functions of the ordained minister for the members in the churches or companies to which he is assigned as a church elder, and for the communities he 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

A licensed minister may perform wedding ceremonies or baptism outside of his/her pastoral district if authorized to do so by the Conference Vice President for Administration. If the ceremony is to be conducted in the territory of another conference, it will require the approval of Potomac Conference Vice President for Administration as well as the out of territory conference president.

Annual Review – A licensed minister's leadership progress, professional development and spiritual growth will be reviewed annually by the conference.

Authorization Withdrawn – A licensed minister's authorization to serve as a minister and to perform substantially all the functions of an ordained minister may be withdrawn by the conference.

Ordination – A licensed minister is ordinarily ordained after a period of about four years of field experience. This spiritual rite of ordination constitutes the official confirmation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of his divine call to the ministry as a life commitment, and is his endorsement to serve as a minister in any part of the world.