

CREDENTIAL APPLICATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Please read all instructions carefully before filling out this application

This application is in four sections: (total of eleven pages)

Section 1:	Credential application	(Page 2)	(to be filled out by the applicant)
Section 2:	Data Release form	(Page 7)	(to be filled out by the applicant)
Section 3:	Applicants reference form	(Page 8)	(to be filled out by an ordained minister)
Section 4:	Applicants spouse reference form	(Page 11)	(to be filled out by the applicants Pastor)

APPLICANT:

1. Complete Section 1 and Section 2 first, and then submit the application to your Pastor to complete the reference forms of Section 3 and Section 4. Provide your Pastor with the appropriate postage and *have him send the completed application* to the District Secretary's office.
2. Include a check for the application fee in the amount of \$75.00, payable to the Niagara Mohawk District, I.F.C.A. This fee includes a required background check (form to authorize such enclosed).
3. If applying for Ordination, include an additional check in the amount of \$25.00, payable to F.O.C.U.S., I.F.C.A.
4. If transferring from another denomination, be sure to enclose copies of your Ordination certificate or other levels of recognition. A copy of your letter requesting transfer or resignation should also be included.
5. Print or type all answers.
6. All questions must be answered, including Ministerial Viewpoints.

Please note: all applicants will be called for a personal interview and/or orientation.

Do not separate this form!

Headquarters:

1294 Rutledge Road, Transfer, Pa. 16154

Phone: 724-962-3501 Fax: 724-962-1766

Email: ifcahq@neohio.twcbc.com Website: www.ifcaministry.com

SECTION 1

CREDENTIAL APPLICATION FORM

**International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies
Niagara Mohawk District
528 S. Hamilton Street ** Watertown, N.Y. 13601 ** (315) 788-9052
cornerstone231@juno.com // ifcanimo.com**

APPLICATION FOR: () Ordination () Minister of the Gospel () Licensed Preacher () Christian Worker
() Re-Instatement () Transfer from another Denomination

Please use separate sheet of paper for any additional information

PART 1 -- PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Name _____
2. Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
3. Phone Numbers: Home () _____ Office () _____ Fax () _____
4. Date of Birth _____ Birth Place _____ Social Security No. _____
Are you a citizen of the United States? _____ If not, what country? _____

PART 2 – FAMILY INFORMATION

5. Are you married? _____ *Separated? _____ * Divorced? _____ Single? _____ Widowed? _____
 - a. *If separated, please explain _____

 - b. *If divorced, please explain _____

On what date were you divorced? ____/____/____

Were attempts made for reconciliation? _____

May we contact your former spouse(s) if deemed necessary? _____

6. List names of all children:
Name: _____ Age: _____ Name: _____ Age: _____
Name: _____ Age: _____ Name: _____ Age: _____

PART 3 -- EDUCATION AND CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

7. What is the highest grade of elementary or high school completed? _____
Where? _____
8. Attach a list of Colleges, Bible School or seminaries that you have attended.
Give dates, courses completed, and degrees earned.
Include list of any academic awards, special honors, etc., that you have received.
Would you be willing to advance your education in accordance with IFCA recommendation? _____
9. Give a brief outline of your past and current experience in church leadership. Include any church offices held, length of time in office, evangelistic services conducted, churches served as pastor. Include dates and any other important information.

10. When were you born-again? _____ Where? _____
Can you provide confirmation from a Pastor or church? _____
11. a) Have you been baptized in water by immersion? _____ When and where? _____
b) Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues? _____
When and where? _____
12. Where is your church membership? _____
Prior? _____
13. Were you previously credentialed with the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies or any other organization? Yes _____ No _____ When? _____ Where? _____
14. Have you ever been dismissed from a Denomination or church for cause or withdrawn under charges?
If yes, give details _____

15. If you have transferred, provide name, address, and telephone number of your superior as well as Denomination.

16. May we have your permission to contact your previous denomination? Yes _____ No _____
If no, please give reason(s) _____
17. Do you read the Bible regularly? _____ Have you read the Bible completely through at least one time? _____

PART FOUR – RELATIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLIES

18. Have you read the Constitution and By-Laws of the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies? _____
Are you in agreement with them? _____ If not, list area(s) of disagreement _____

19. Will you be willing to attend the next orientation when presented? _____
 Are you willing to attend the IFCA Annual Convention, to the best of your ability? _____
 Are you willing to attend the District Council meetings and other functions as you are able? _____
20. Do you fully agree with the doctrinal positions of the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies, and do you agree to teach and preach in harmony with them? _____
 Do you hold any mental reservations about the Articles of Faith of the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies? If yes, give an explanation _____
21. If you reach a place where you are out of harmony with the doctrines and standards of the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies, will you surrender your credentials & certificates to your District Officials? _____
22. Will you cooperate with your District and National Officials? _____
23. Will you abide by the decisions of the General Council? _____ The District Council? _____

PART 5 -- FINANCIAL AND EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

24. Have you faithfully supported your local church with your attendance, tithes and offerings? _____
25. Have you received a copy of the financial giving plan for credential holders of the IFCA? _____
26. Will you faithfully support the General Council and District Council through this plan? _____
 Do you know that if you do not contribute financially your credentials will not be issued to you? _____
27. Have you ever declared bankruptcy? _____ Been sued for collection of a debt? _____
 Had wages attached? _____ Has any property been repossessed for non-payment of contract or bills? _____
 Have you been involved in any legal action? _____ If any answer is yes, please explain on separate paper.
28. Are you currently having financial difficulties? _____ If yes, please explain: _____

29. If you are or have been employed in secular work, please attach a list of employers to this application, including addresses, supervisors, and dates you were employed in the respective job.

PART 6 -- PERSONAL LIFE

30. Have you ever been charged with a moral offense? _____ If answer is yes, please provide all necessary information under separate cover.
31. Have you ever been tested HIV positive? _____ If yes, please give details. _____

32. Do you presently have, or indulge in, any of the following habits?
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Watch pornography? | Yes ___ No ___ | Drink alcohol? | Yes ___ No ___ |
| Live a gay lifestyle? | Yes ___ No ___ | Use illegal drugs? | Yes ___ No ___ |
| Practice adultery? | Yes ___ No ___ | Smoke or chew tobacco? | Yes ___ No ___ |

33. Summarize your study habits, prayer time and devotional life: _____

34. Have you received a definite call from God? _____ To what? _____
35. Do you remember when and how you received that call? _____

36. Why are you interested in holding credentials with the IFCA? _____

PART 7 -- MINISTERIAL VIEWPOINTS

On separate paper, write brief essays explaining your concept of, and/or understanding of the following subjects: (give Scripture references)

- 37. The man/woman of God.
- 38. The “ministry”.
- 39. Divorce and remarriage.
- 40. Discipleship/submission.
- 41. Tithing.
- 42. Faith and Prosperity teaching.
- 43. Divine healing, water baptism, baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- 44. The Minister’s covering.
- 45. The Minister’s accountability.
- 46. The need for affiliation.
- 47. The manner of, or procedure for, church marriage.
- 48. The Minister’s response to encountered resistance from: church board, individuals, etc.
- 49. Abortion, homosexuality, AIDS.

I grant the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies permission to conduct an investigation into the information given in this application and to circulate said application and information to whomever necessary.

Signed: _____
Applicant

CANDIDATE:

I certify that I have read all the questions in this application and that I have answered them truthfully. I hereby apply for credentials with the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies, through the Niagara Mohawk District. I agree to be interviewed in person before my recognition is granted.

I am aware that if any of my answers are discovered to be false, my credentials will be automatically revoked.

I hereby set my signature _____ this _____ day of _____ 20_____

PASTOR: Please evaluate this application, complete the recommendation, sign it and return it to:

**International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies
Niagara Mohawk District
528 S. Hamilton Street
Watertown, N.Y. 13601**

I _____, Pastor of _____,
recommend _____ to the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies (Niagara Mohawk District), to be considered favorably for credentials. He/she has been faithful to the local church and has demonstrated leadership qualities and other evidences of a desire to be used of God.

Pastor's Remarks:

Date

Pastor's Signature

DISTRICT ACTION

Approved _____ **Recognition granted as:** _____

Not approved _____ **Reason:** _____

Hold _____ **For** _____

Date _____ **District Officer** _____

SECTION 2

DATA RELEASE FORM

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out by the applicant

I, _____, having filed an application for credentials with the Niagara Mohawk District of the General Council, International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies, hereby grant permission to said District and the Department of FOCUS (Faith, Order, Credentials, Unity, and Standards) of the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies, to circulate my application and any other related information about me to all responsible persons who will be receiving this application and data, which is required in the granting of credentials.

Date

Applicant's Signature

SECTION 3

REFERENCE FORM FOR A CREDENTIAL APPLICANT

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be completed by an Ordained Minister who knows the applicant well. Because it is essential that great care be taken in the selection of candidates for the Ministry, we ask that you answer each of the questions below as frankly as possible. Omit items which you have had no opportunity to observe. All information provided will be held in strict confidence!

Applicant's Name: _____

Minister's Name: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: () _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Church Name: _____ Your Position: _____

If you are not an IFCA Pastor, with whom do you hold credentials? _____

1. Are you the applicant's Pastor? _____ If not, what is your association with the applicant? _____

2. How long have you known the applicant? _____ In what capacity? _____

3. Are you in any way related to the applicant? _____ If "yes", describe relationship: _____

4. To the best of your knowledge...

a. Is the applicant living a consistent Christian life? _____

b. Has the applicant continued to grow towards spiritual maturity and reached a level suitable for his/her requested credential? _____

c. Is the applicant received well by the community? _____

d. Is he/she respected and received well by the local church which he/she attends or pastors? _____

e. Is he/she respected and received well by colleagues in the community? _____

If you answered "no" to any of the above questions, please explain: _____

5. So that we may be better acquainted with the traits that best describe the applicant, please circle the proper number after the statement which applies. The range of numbers is "1" (poor) and number "5" (excellent).

Courtesy	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Maturity	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Initiative	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Adaptability	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Dependability	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Bible Knowledge	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Ministry Involvement	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Physical Fitness	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Wise use of free time	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Neatness of person	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Care of property	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Respect for property	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Wisdom in use of money	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Consideration of others	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Interpersonal relationships	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Public speaking ability	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Behavior in public	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Behavior with the opposite sex	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Overall decorum	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Relationship with family	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Cooperation with family	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Disposition	1	2	3	4	5	no information
General attitude towards the Ministry	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Devotional and study habits	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Sincerity	1	2	3	4	5	no information
Discipline in the home	1	2	3	4	5	no information

6. What type of ministries, gifts and talents are evident in the applicant's life?

7. Is there any evidence of God's call to the ministry on the applicant?

Yes Possibly No Please comment on your answer:

8. What characteristics of this person do you feel might contribute to a successful Ministry/Christian service?

9. What characteristics of this person do you feel might create problems in the Ministry/Christian service?

10. How does the applicant react to instruction, counsel, discipline, or correction? _____

11. What opinion have you formed regarding his/her Christian character? _____

12. To the best of your knowledge, does the applicant hold any doctrinal view or teaching not commonly held by the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies? _____ If "yes", please explain _____

13. List any habits or areas of integrity you may be aware of that may be detrimental to this person's effectiveness in their Ministry or Christian service which the District Presbytery should be made aware of:

14. Can this applicant be trusted to keep confidence? Not usually Usually Always

15. Circle the words which you feel would best describe the applicant:

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Impatient | Prejudice | Impulsive | Socially Awkward |
| Intolerant | Tactful | Studious | Self-Confident |
| Insecure | Argumentative | Organized | Sarcastic |
| Modest | Domineering | Loving | Critical of others |
| Patient | Proud | Kind | Mature |
| Anxious | Timid | Loyal | Compassionate |
| Nervous | Verbal | Gentle | Teachable |
| Depressed | Humble | Intelligent | Self-disciplined |

16. Do you recommend the applicant named for credentials? (check one) Yes ____ With reservation ____ No ____

17. Any additional comments? _____

Date

Signature

SECTION 4

REFERENCE FORM FOR A CREDENTIAL APPLICANT'S SPOUSE

INSTRUCTIONS
 This form must be completed by the applicant's Pastor.

Name of Applicant's Spouse _____

1. Are you an Ordained Minister? _____
2. In your opinion, does he/she display a cooperative spirit concerning the spouse's call to the ministry? _____
3. Does he/she become involved in the church by:

a. Attending services:	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
b. Participating in worship:	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
c. Serving in ministries:	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
4. To the best of your knowledge...
 - a. Is the spouse living a consistent Christian life? _____
 - b. Has he/she continued to grow towards spiritual maturity? _____
 - c. What characteristics of this person do you feel might cause problems in the ministry of his/her spouse? _____

 - d. Is the spouse respected well by the local congregation? _____ In the community? _____

If you answered "no" to any of the above questions, please explain: _____

Circle the words which you feel would best describe the applicant's spouse:

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Impatient | Prejudice | Impulsive | Socially Awkward |
| Intolerant | Tactful | Studious | Self-Confident |
| Insecure | Argumentative | Organized | Sarcastic |
| Modest | Domineering | Loving | Critical of others |
| Patient | Proud | Kind | Mature |
| Anxious | Timid | Loyal | Compassionate |
| Nervous | Verbal | Gentle | Teachable |
| Depressed | Humble | Intelligent | Self-disciplined |

 Date

 Signature