



Manual / Guidebook

The Evangelical Christian Church – ECC

>License, Ordination or Standing now available<

>Church Charter Information also included in this packet<

Websites: <http://dayspringmi.com> and <http://eccdayspringmi.com>

The Evangelical Christian Church, Inc.

The Dayspring Ministry Group

Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the Dayspring from on high has visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1.78-79

United in love, strengthened by faith

A MESSAGE FROM OUR General Superintendent, U.S.A., Bishop Karen Dixon



Greetings my brothers and sisters in the faith... Welcome to the family of the Dayspring Ministry Group ...and the Evangelical Christian Church. We hope that as you read this manual that you will listen to God as He leads you into this Christ Centered Fellowship of Churches, Ministries and Ministers.

Our mission is to provide a home for evangelical Christians. Many churches have deviated from Biblical truths about God, Jesus and the Bible. The gender of God is debated; the divinity of Jesus is questioned and the authority of the Bible is challenged.

Dayspring Ministries International through The The Evangelical Christian Church, provides Administrative and Spiritual leadership for the Church through the Presiding Minister of the ECC, A Bishop General, The Ruling Bishops, and the Provincial and Regional Superintendents.

DMI through the ECC was formed to establish a fellowship of ministers who desire to strive for unity in the Body of Christ; to edify, exhort and encourage the ministry; to provide legal and spiritual recognition of the call God has placed on an individual and to assist in the fulfillment of that call for women and men, to promote fellowship; to promote independence and freedom to follow the vision God has given you.

God's leaders are too frequently overworked, abused, and overcome by the pressures of ministry and the wounds of people. Ministry designed to restore leaders to lives of wholeness is a goal of this fellowship. DMI intends to provide grace-filled and Bible-based restoration for spiritual leaders who have fallen into sin or destructive life patterns with the goal of seeing full and complete restoration whenever possible.

We believe the Scripture teaches equality for women in ministry. To this end women are ordained the same as are men. Women have equal opportunities as men in DMI. Women can and have reached the position of "Ruling Bishop" in The Evangelical Christian church ... Dayspring Ministries International.

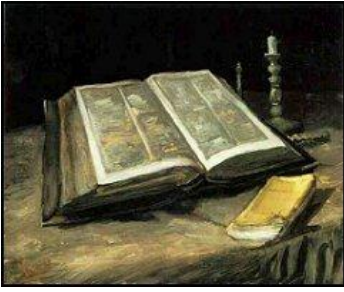
Dayspring is involved in several ministries including a counseling and college ministry. Dayspring Ministries International wishes also to affirm those of like faith and calling. Read further about our ministry of offering credentials to those who are called to preach or serve God in some special way. Read about equality in ministry for women... Read our articles of faith, our requirements for ministry and become a Dayspring Minister.

MISSION

It is the mission of Dayspring Ministries International, through The Evangelical Christian Church (ECC) to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ and restore New Testament Christianity.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: *The Seven Articles Of Faith*

We Believe...



...there is one God eternally existing and manifesting Himself to us in three persons -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

...Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He is our Lord and Savior

...the Holy Spirit is a divine person, sent to indwell, guide, teach and empower the believer, and convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

...the Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were inspired by God and are sufficient for faith and practice.

...Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent.

...the church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood and are born again of the Holy Spirit.

...the local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and the observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

MORAL AND SOCIAL WITNESS – ECC & ECC Standing

While these are the official positions of the church, liberty of conscience is allowed on some issues:

Abortion on demand is morally wrong and inconsistent with the Theology of Creation and Existence. However, we are encouraged to be non-judgmental and compassionate towards those who choose abortion in difficult circumstances. Liberty of conscience disallowed.

Capital Punishment is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus and the Theology of Divine Retribution. Liberty of conscience allowed.

Cloning is dangerously morally and ethically wrong and inconsistent with the Theology of Divine Creation. Liberty of conscience disallowed.

Divorce is a very painful and difficult decision we support when the health, safety and welfare of all involved are compromised. The right to remarry is affirmed. This is consistent with the Theology of Peace and the Divine Plan of Marriage and Family. Liberty of conscience allowed.

Homosexuality is outside the Divine Plan of Creation and Reproduction as well as the Theology of Morality. However, we endorse a compassionate and redemptive ministry towards those who struggle with their sexuality. We repudiate all hatred, violence and discrimination.



REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDINATION – ECC & ECC Standing

Basic Qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition: A thorough understanding of and agreement with the doctrinal position of Dayspring ECC as contained in each Statement of Faith.

A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the entities of Dayspring Ministries International and their Constitutions and By-Laws. These include The Evangelical Christian Church, The American Association of Christian Therapists, The International College of Christian Therapy.

An active loyalty to the constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of those in positions of authority. The same spiritual qualifications shall be expected of the spouse of those seeking credentials. The Christian lifestyle of the spouse shall be compatible with the standards of the ministry.

Proper Motives



A candidate should be certain that motives are proper in applying for the recognition of the ECC and Dayspring Ministries International. A ministry appointed by the Holy Spirit will prove to be the best credential one can have.

Dayspring and the ECC are founded on the principles of voluntary cooperation. Every applicant ought to feel that the organization of Dayspring ECC is the fellowship or denomination into which God has called them. They are to be one with these people and adhere to the same tenets of faith, principles, purposes and practices as those they now join. They must be one who is committed to the fellowship, willing to not only share in its privilege and blessing, but to cooperate with its ministries. They must be guided by, and when necessary, accept the discipline and direction of its leadership.

Ordination into and standing with The Evangelical Christian Church, Inc. (Christian Disciples) is either by transfer of ministerial credentials or by the "laying on of hands" in a local ceremony under the oversight of an ECC Bishop, Provincial Superintendent or Regional Superintendent. If you are surrendering your past credentials or applying for first time license or ordination you will be received into the ECC. If you are retaining your past credentials you will be received with Standing with the ECC. "Mail order" credentials will be considered on a case by case request. Additionally, we suggest that all candidates for ordination should hold at least a Bachelor's degree in ministry, Bible, theology, religion, pastoral counseling or a related field.

Unaccredited degrees or those accredited by unrecognized bodies will be evaluated by the Ministerial Education Committee. Honorary degrees will suffice if the candidate has life experience. If a candidate does not hold a degree the candidate is encouraged to enroll and complete the courses of study offered by the Christian Ministry Institute. All candidates for ordination must pass an exam on the history, theology and polity of The Evangelical Christian Church, as well as submitting to a personal interview.

The application in this brochure may be used by those seeking Ordination or License. One must be 23 to be ordained and 18 to receive license. Please use an additional sheet of paper to answer some of the questions. If you are 21 and wish to be ordained please call or email the office for special dispensation.

Making Application For Credentials – ECC and ECC Standing

Contact the Ministries office for a Preliminary Application or print one from the website. Upon receipt of your application you will be notified by email for a phone or personal interview.

Subject to compliance with criteria for eligibility, You may fill out an application from our web page or an application will be mailed to you by the Ministries Secretary. Return the completed application, other pertinent forms, recent photo and filing fee with check made payable to Dayspring Ministries International, P.O. Box 742, Granbury, Texas 76048 USA. If you send credit card or banking information to be paid through Paypal, you may fax your application.

Filing Fees:

**All Licensed \$50.00 – ECC & ECC Standing
(Standing for those who keep their present license)**

**All Ordained \$75.00 – ECC & ECC Standing
(Standing for those who keep their present ordination)**

All Licensed and Ordained in Africa, Asia and Island Nations are \$30.00

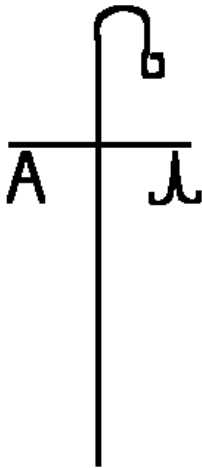
The application will request as references the name of your pastor, ministers acquainted with your ministry background, friends and employers. All references should know the applicant well enough to answer a comprehensive questionnaire. A synopsis of the required examination for those seeking first time license, along with specific study books will be sent to you to assist you in preparing for the examination.

All Certified and Specialized Minister applicants may have to pass a written examination in order to become eligible. Your Pastor or a minister friend will administer the written examination. The Ministries Secretary will notify you in writing that all your references and materials have been received and you will be requested to contact the ministry offices and arrange a time and place for the test to be given. Applicants will be asked to use only their Bible during the examination

Financial Responsibilities

The work of Dayspring Ministries International, AEC & ECC, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in home and foreign fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the national offices. A suggested minimum offering is for each level:

Ordained, Licensed, Senior Retired - Free-will basis
Suggested \$50.00



MINISTER'S LICENSE AND ORDINATION LEVELS

SPECIALIZED LICENSE & ORDINATION - Many are called to specialized ministry and wish their license or ordination certificate to state such. We license and ordain: Choir Directors, Education Directors, Musicians, Missionaries, local and foreign, and Church Mothers. The License or Ordination Certificate shall read as an example, "Minister of Music," or "Minister of Education," Etc. The Specialized License has five requirements. (1) He or she shall have a call of God on his or her life, (2) Candidate must be 18 years of age for license and 21 years for ordination; (3) Be recommended by three persons, (4) One must be actively involved in a local church; and, (5) The candidate must agree to the giving plan as set forth by the Fellowship and promote Dayspring Ministries International, ECC and AEC.

LICENSED MINISTER - This credential is granted to a person who is called of God and wants to step up to a higher order. With a license one is authorized to preach, perform holy matrimony, baptize, serve the Lord's Supper, exhort, confirm, and practice any biblical and religious activity pertaining to the office of Minister of the Gospel, in accordance with respective ordinances of residence. There are three requirements for the Licensed Minister. (1) The Candidate Must be 18 years of age; (2) She or he should have experienced the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4) with the evidence of gifts for ministry; (3) The candidate must agree to the giving plan as set forth by the Fellowship and promote Dayspring Ministries International, ECC and AEC.

ORDAINED MINISTER - This credential is granted to a person who has prepared himself or herself for a lifetime of ministry. She or He is certified and authorized to preach, perform marriages, baptize, bury the dead, teach, confirm, serve the Lord's Supper to the congregation. There are four requirements for Ordination. (1) The Candidate must be 23 years of age; (2) The candidate must be ready to commit his or her life to God's calling until He shall come again. (3) She or He will have experienced the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4) with the evidence of gifts for ministry; (4) The candidate must agree to the giving plan as set forth by the Fellowship and promote Dayspring Ministries International, ECC and AEC

CHURCH CHARTERS

The Association of Evangelical Clergy will offer charter to ministries. The Evangelical Christian Church will offer charters for churches and ministries (if requested) who are pastored by ECC and AEC Licensed or Ordained Ministers. There is a one time filing fee of \$50.00.

Chartered Churches and Ministries are requested to send a monthly offering to Dayspring Ministries International. Churches received into the membership are encouraged to provide monthly offerings as a base of support for the operation of the administrative office and the development and furtherance of benefits, study materials, and support of member ministries in need. All giving should be done in faith, with a heart of love and a commitment to sowing seed into good soil. (Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE AT <http://dayspringmi.com> .

Please call: 817-736-3041

or Write to:

The Evangelical Christian Church

**P.O. Box 863
Brookhaven, Mississippi 39602**

The Evangelical Christian Church

Dayspring Ministries International
P.O. Box 863, Brookhaven, MS 39602 U.S.A.
Phone: 601-990-4523

APPLICATION FOR MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

Filing fee is \$75.00 for Ordained, \$50.00 for License to Preach, \$30.00 For both in Africa and Asia

Please type or print legibly and fill in completely. You may use additional sheets.

1. Full Name _____ 2. Address _____
3. City, State and Zip _____ 4. Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____
5. E-Mail Address _____ 6. DOB _____ Male _____ Female _____
S.S.# _____ Spouse's Name (If married) _____ S.S. # _____

***I wish to be ordained in the _____ Evangelical Christian Church _____ Receive standing with the ECC
(ECC for New Ministers or transfer of orders. Standing is for Ministers who retain old orders)***

On separate sheets:

- Names and Ages of Children in Home
- Diplomas Held: ___ High School ___ GED _____ Highest Earned Degree. Other Accomplishments (Seminars, Institutes, Author of Books, Etc...)
Professional Licenses or Certificates Held. Books, Articles, Writing, Etc. (explain)
- Please explain your doctrinal views in the following areas. Be as brief as possible. However, use the additional space on the back of the form if needed.

Salvation: The Trinity: Water Baptism:

- Please submit a statement of your spiritual journey and why you seek ministerial credentials through DMI (AECC or ECC circle one)
- Where do you attend church?
- Are you a pastor? Are you ordained? If so, by whom and when? Are credentials still valid ?
- Please describe your Christian work during the past several years
- Do you have a secular job? If so, what?
- Have you ever been convicted of a crime?
- Are you currently in criminal litigation?
- Do you oppose abortion except to save the life of the mother?
- Please detail your post-secondary education
- List your college degrees and any other state or national licenses or certifications
- Do you FULLY understand you are accountable to Dayspring Ministries International and that credentials may be revoked for conduct unbecoming of a minister of Christ?
- Do you FULLY understand That DMI IS NOT legally responsible for your actions?
- Do you FULLY understand ALL ECC Churches are CONGREGATIONAL and SEMI-AUTONOMOUS in government?
- Do you accept The Dayspring Articles of Faith without reservation or hesitation and also understand as a Pastor your church members are only required to subscribe to the Articles and that you cannot add to them?
- Have you read our Constitution and Bylaws and are you in full agreement with them?
- Do you have membership in any religious organizations that are not Christian?
- Do you believe that Jesus the Christ is the Son of God and only through Him can there be Salvation?
- Are you _____ Trinitarian _____ Non-Trinitarian (explain) _____ Unitarian _____ Universalist?

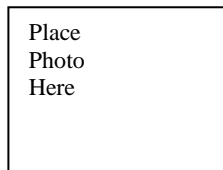
REFERENCES

Please provide letters of reference from a Pastor and a layperson attesting to your character, calling and fitness for the ministry and, ***a letter or official document from a legal entity in EVERY state you have lived and worked since adulthood, concerning whether or not you have a criminal record or are currently in litigation. We are specifically inquiring about child abuse convictions. You may use our attached form and we will run the check for you.***

MINISTERIAL ETHICS: Please read and sign, if in agreement,

- I will maintain high ethical and moral values in all my dealings, personally and professionally;
- I will respect each person's difference in doctrine, style and personality as they follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit;
- I will always be willing to learn;
- I will only speak in edifying ways in regards to other ministers, ministries, and the Body of Christ at large;
- I will treat all with whom I come into contact as I would like to be treated; and,
- I will support and promote The Evangelical Christian Church in ways the Lord leads me.

I solemnly affirm all statements made on this application are true and correct and understand should information come forward to the contrary, I will have my credentials revoked.



Written Signature _____ Printed Signature _____ Date _____

Please print form, complete and send, along with supplementary sheets, copies of all educational degrees, certificates, counseling licenses, licenses to preach, certificates of ordination, letters of reference and, in U.S. funds only, \$75 offering to help defray fellowship expenses to: **Dayspring Ministries International**, Office of the Presiding Archbishop, P.O. Box 742, Granbury, Texas 76048. 817-736-3041.

DAYSPRING REFERENCE FORM (Circle One) AACT, ICCT, ECC

Make three copies of this form: Give to three of your colleagues and have them sent directly to us.

Use Typewriter or black ink. Use additional sheets or the back of this page on any question if necessary.

Waiver: I waive the right to review reference responses to this form.

Therapist's or Minister's Signature _____

To the Reference: The person listed below has given your name as a reference. Please complete this form and return to DMI within **TWO WEEKS**. Neatness, clarity and dark copy which will reproduce well are essential. If the waiver has been signed the information you put on the form will be kept in confidence, but will be seen by the Board of Directors and / or the Certification Review Board of AACT. Thank you for your assistance. *You may fax this form to DMI, at 360-656-9096*

Please mail this form to: **DMI, Dr. Gary Barkman, President, P.O. Box 863, Brookhaven, MS 39602**

Minister's/Therapist's Name _____

Address _____

Address 2 _____

Phone / Email _____ / _____

Reference Name _____

Address _____

Address 2 _____

Phone / Email _____ / _____

How Long have you known this person: _____

Relationship: Lay member of present congregation Lay member of previous congregation Clergy Colleague
 Counselor / Therapist Colleague Fellowship / Denominational Leader / staff Family Friend
 Other _____

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Please place the appropriate number in the blank following the personal characteristic:

1 Exemplary 2 Often 3 Sometimes 4 Do Not Know

Follows through with responsibilities Protects confidentially Handles pressure well Manages time wisely
 Appropriate personal appearance Likes people Handles conflict well Portrays Christian maturity
 Takes criticism well Takes praise graciously Seeks help from others when needed Takes time for study
 Is creative/imaginative Has a positive attitude Is flexible/adaptable Is a good listener

The following questions require answering on another sheet of paper or on the back.

For what type of Ministry or Counseling situation do you feel this person best suited? (use back or other page)

Are there counseling or ministerial situations for which it would be unwise to consider him/her?

In this person's counseling, does he/she maintain confidentiality; being compassionate and sensitive to other's needs; helping persons develop emotional maturity and security?

Does he/she help persons develop their spiritual life; encouraging persons to relate their faith to their daily lives?

Does he/she make calls on persons in hospitals; ministering to persons in crisis situations?

Are there other comments which would assist _____ the American Association of Christian Therapists in making a decision to certify or not certify this person? _____ the Association of Evangelical Community Churches or the Evangelical Christian Church in making a decision to Ordain/License or not Ordain/License this person? (Please limit your comments to this and one other page)

Signature _____ Date _____

REQUEST FOR CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK AND AUTHORIZATION

If you do not have this run yourself please submit an additional **\$45.00** for it to be run by DMI.

I hereby request Choice Point/Volunteer Select to release any information which pertains to any record of convictions contained in its files or in any criminal files maintained on me whether local, state, or national. I hereby release Choice Point/Volunteer Select from any and all liability resulting from such disclosure.

Signature

Print Name

Print Maiden Name (If Applicable)

Print All Aliases

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

Social Security Number

Today's Date

Record Check Sent To:
The Evangelical Christian Church
P.O. Box 863
Brookhaven, MS 39602
Attn: Dr. Karen Dixson
General Superintendent
CONFIDENTIAL

***The above signed does authorize the release of any of his/hers records to
The Evangelical Christian Church, P.O. Box 863, Brookhaven, MS 39602.***

**You can complete this form and have it run by your local police
or you can contact a company online and they will run a check for you
or send an additional **\$50.00** and we will run it for you.**

Application for Church or Ministry Charter

The Evangelical Christian Church

P.O. Box 863, Brookhaven, MS 39602 - Phone: 601-990-4523

[] Churches & Ministries will be chartered through the ECC

Please complete ALL information requested. (please print or type)

**NOTE: YOU MUST BE A MINISTER
LICENSED, ORDAINED, or with STANDING BY ECC**

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Country: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: ____ (____) _____

Name of Church or Ministry: _____

Type of Ministry: _____

Location: _____

Senior Pastor / Leader: _____

Co-Pastor / Leader: _____

A Church or Ministry may receive a Charter at no charge. However one of the ministers of the congregation must be ordained, licensed, or have standing with the ECC.

Select method of payment: (check one)

Money Order [] Personal Check [] Make Arrangements with Headquarters []

After completing all of the above information, Place application in envelope and mail or post to:

The Evangelical Christian Church

Dayspring Ministries International

P.O. Box 863

Brookhaven, Mississippi 39602

Fax: See Website Contact Page