

Procedures for Persons Seeking EMC Credentials

- All credential candidates must meet with a Conference Superintendent for an initial interview and evaluation.
- Upon the recommendation of the Conference Superintendent, a credential candidate must complete and submit an “Application for Ministry.” The Superintendent will provide the link to the online application and background check release form. If approved, the Conference Superintendent signs and submits the application to the chairperson of the EMC’s General Board of Ministerial Relations (GBMR).
- The GBMR Chair will conduct a background investigation on all credential candidates.
- With a clear background check, the GBMR Chair will contact the candidate regarding a formal interview with the entire board. If the background check reveals something that would preclude the applicant moving forward, the GBMR Chair will treat that information confidentially, and communicate a decline of their application to the applicant and the Conference Superintendent.
- The GBMR Chair will ask the candidate to submit any official college or seminary transcripts to EMC Headquarters to be uploaded to the candidate’s personnel file, which will be made available to the General Board of Ministerial Education (GBME).
- Upon the recommendation of the GBMR, the candidate may be conditionally approved for one of the following credentials: “Deacon/Deaconess, Local Preacher, Admission on Trial, or Elder.”
- If it is determined that the candidate needs additional ministerial education, options will be discussed that may include a referral to the Haggard School of Ministry (HSOM), administered by the GBME. The Haggard School of Ministry prepares candidates with or without bachelor’s degrees in ministerial related resident and non-resident courses. If entrance into HSOM is prescribed, the Academic Dean will secure an enrollment application.
 - Credential candidates admitted to HSOM must complete the required courses for the particular credential sought (Deacon/Deaconess, Local Preacher, Admission on Trial, or Elder).
 - The educational path for credential candidates without a bachelor’s degree can be as short as one year (Deacon/Deaconess) or as long as five years (Elder).
 - Credential candidates with degrees from colleges or seminaries not on the EMC’s pre-approved list, may be asked to attend specific classes in HSOM.
 - All ministerial candidates must complete an introductory course, H101 “This is the EMC.”
- Completion of the Local Preacher requirements in HSOM clears the way for the potential granting of a Local Preacher’s License, but this status must be renewed annually by approval of the local church and GBMR. Local Preachers may choose to move on to further studies in the pursuit of Elder’s Orders.
- Receiving credentialed ministers from other churches are handled on a case-by-case basis. See the *Discipline* of the Evangelical Methodist Church, ¶865.