

INDIANA MINISTRIES – CREDENTIALING ADVOCATE
Department of Ministry Services
Ordination and Licensing Committee(s)



Beginning in 2010 each Ordination and Licensing candidate will require an Advocate.

An advocate is a Church of God (COG) ordained minister who sponsors, represents, endorses, and supports the potential candidate. The creation of a credentialing advocate is to ensure an experienced COG ordained minister take personal responsibility to declare the potential candidate is ready and prepared to seek formal credentialing. A credentialing advocate will serve the ordinand for a minimum of one (1) year, after which a coach or mentor will be assigned. The advocate can serve as the candidates coach or mentor. The credentialing advocate can be the candidate's pastor. Most important is that the advocate be intimately acquainted with the candidates' ministry.

Upon receipt of the letter of intention, the credentialing committee coordinator will ensure the necessary application forms and instructions are mailed to the potential candidate for action. After receipt of the completed documents, the credentials coordinator will invite the potential candidate and credentialing advocate to meet with the appropriate credentialing committee (Section 3.15, Credentialing Manual) for an initial interview.

Every potential ordinand must be introduced to the credentialing committee at their initial interview by a COG ordained minister serving as credentialing advocate who can affirm, substantiate the person's life, and calling to Christian ministry. The COG ordained minister may or may not be the candidate's senior pastor, but is a part of the local congregation or religious organization. This credentialing advocate may or may not be different from the coach or mentor (Section 3.21 and 3.22, Credentialing Manual).

Once the candidate is accepted into the credentialing process after the initial interview, they will continue in the process as delineated in Section 3.16, Credentialing Manual and following.