

**The Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba
Ministry Credentialing/Ordination Questionnaire for Pastors**

Name:

Address:

City:

Phone:

Email:

Present Position:

Church:

Signature of Church Leader (Pastor/Moderator) who recommends the applicant:

THIS IS AN APPLICATION FOR (Please mark an 'X' beside all that apply):

- Ministry Credentialing
 - Registration with the Manitoba Government to solemnize marriages*
 - Ordination (Please provide a letter of request from the church)
 - Recognition of Ordination (Be sure to include documentation of ordination)
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REQUIRED DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED (Please mark with an 'X'):

- Ministry Credentialing/Ordination Questionnaire
- Criminal Record Check (If not requested by the church)

Two Book Reports (Books are available from Kindred Productions – 1-800-545-7322)

- Confession of Faith: Commentary and Pastoral Application* (Kindred Productions, 2000)
- Family Matters: Discovering the Mennonite Brethren* (Kindred Productions, 2002)

Three Reference forms

- Name of Reference _____
- Name of Reference _____
- Name of Reference _____

Please Note: An incomplete application package may delay the decision-making process.

** Registration to solemnize weddings remains in effect only while serving in an M.B. church in Manitoba.*

Preamble

1. The space provided for your response will automatically expand when using the electronic version of this questionnaire. For questions that ask for brief discussion, try to find a balance between offering one-sentence responses that may in some cases be too simplistic, and writing an extended theological treatise. It is helpful to highlight your responses in either *italics* or **bold** print.
2. Privacy Act Compliance: The information requested in this questionnaire will be used only by those leaders within the Mennonite Brethren Conference who have been designated to determine your suitability for ministry within the conference. Information from the application will not be shared without your permission. The application will be kept by your provincial conference office in a safe and secure location for as long as you are serving with the Mennonite Brethren Conference, after which all records will be destroyed. Any concerns about the privacy of personal information may be directed to the Mennonite Brethren Conference’s privacy officer.

I. BIOGRAPHICAL AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Date of Birth: Place of Birth and Citizenship:
2. Marital Status: single or married Date of Marriage (if applicable):
3. Spouse’s full name (if applicable):
4. Have you been divorced? If yes, explain briefly the circumstances.
5. Date of believer’s baptism:
6. Which church baptized you?
7. Children (if applicable):

Names	Age	Vocation

8. Health

- A. Are there any reasons why your ministry duties might be limited due to physical limitations or disabilities? If so, explain.
- B. Have you ever been treated for prolonged physical or emotional disorders?
- C. Are you taking any medication on a regular basis? If yes, explain.

9. If married, please discuss below how your vocational choice affects your spouse/family:

- A. Describe the relationship between your own and your spouse’s vocational/ministry aspirations.

B. How will a move from your present location impact your spouse/family?

C. What role does your spouse intend to have in your ministry?

II. SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Please write a short spiritual autobiography. Identify the influences and circumstances that prompted you to make a decision to become a Christian. What is the biblical basis upon which you claim salvation? Share how God has led you along in your spiritual pilgrimage: what have been some of the most important decisions and experiences in your Christian life? How is God working in your life now?

III. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1. Post-secondary education: List school, degrees and year obtained

School	Degree	Date of Degree

2. List experience in churches and ministries (e.g., missionary service, chaplaincy, etc.) giving length of service and position. If part-time, indicate.

Church	City, Province	Position	From	To

3. List any employment experience that has contributed to your preparation for a professional ministry role.

Position	Place	How long?

4. List any denominational, community and other activities or organizations in which you have participated in recent years or in which you are still participating.

5. Comment briefly about the cultures (rural/suburban/ethnic/national, etc.) in which you work best?

IV. MINISTRY EXPERIENCE AND EVALUATION

1. Which spiritual gifts have been affirmed in your life/ministry?
 2. Describe how these gifts have been operative in your life/ministry.
 3. Describe how you have experienced the call of God to pastoral ministry.
How has this call been recognized and affirmed by others?
 4. What do you perceive the essential work of a pastor to be?
 5. How do you understand ordination for ministry?
 6. How do you lead people to passionately follow Jesus Christ?
 7. How have you demonstrated a life of faith in a secular environment?
 8. What does it mean to you, as pastor, to give leadership in the church?
 9. What is your philosophy of team relationships in leadership?
 10. What role does the congregation have in decision-making?
 11. How do you relate to church boards and others in authority?
 12. What are three things that bring you the greatest joy in ministry?
 13. What are three things that drain you in ministry?
 14. What do you like about serving in the Mennonite Brethren denomination? Any concerns?
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V. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Please comment briefly on the following items.

1. Discuss your relationship with God at present. What is your usual practice of drawing close to God?
2. Describe your program for continuing education (include professional conferences, seminars, etc.).
3. List periodicals that you read regularly for your enrichment.
4. Identify and describe briefly the three most significant books you have read within the past year.
5. Have you published any books, articles for professional journals, newspapers, etc? If so, list.
6. How do you discern God's direction in your life?

7. What do you do to maintain your physical and emotional wellbeing?
 8. What do you consider to be your greatest personal strength?
 9. What do you consider to be your greatest personal weakness?
 10. Discuss some of your personal goals and plans for the future? (Dream a little)
 11. Do you have any unresolved conflict(s) or tension(s) in your life that could adversely affect your ministry? If yes, explain.
 12. Pastors frequently acquire information that others do not have. Discuss how you (and if applicable, your spouse) handle information that is confidential.
 13. Can it be assumed that you are free from addictions to any habit-forming substances (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs, etc.) and habitual sins (pornography, gambling, etc.)?
 14. Colossians 3:12-17 discusses the qualities with which we are to clothe ourselves, as God's chosen people. Discuss how you are demonstrating them in your life (showing kindness, compassion, patience, gentleness, and humility); how you are forgiving those who wrong you; how you are letting the peace of God rule your heart.
 15. Is there anything in your past about which you have not been asked in this questionnaire that could become a problem for you in your ministry and that leaders in the Mennonite Brethren Conference should know about?
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VI. BIBLICAL – THEOLOGICAL AFFIRMATIONS

Please answer each question and where appropriate **offer some scriptural support** for your views. Try to find a balance between offering one-sentence responses that may in some cases be too simplistic, and writing an extended theological treatise.

1. Explain briefly your basis for affirming the Bible as the infallible word of God and the authoritative guide for faith and practice.
2. Describe briefly how affirming the Bible as authoritative impacts your life and ministry.
3. Discuss briefly your view regarding the work of God in creation and in redemption.
4. Discuss briefly your view of Christ in His incarnation, deity, death, resurrection, and final triumph.
5. Discuss briefly your understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in relation to the unbeliever, the believer, gifts to the church and fruits of the Spirit.
6. Discuss briefly your understanding of the creation of humanity, the fall of humanity into sin and the consequences of human rebellion against God.
7. Discuss briefly the meaning of redemption, conversion, the relationship of justification to sanctification and God's grace to human responsibility.
8. Discuss briefly your understanding of the nature and mission of the church.

9. Discuss briefly the ordinances of baptism and communion, and the practices of church membership and discipline.
 10. Discuss briefly your view of biblical love, and what it means to oppose violence and act as peacemakers.
 11. Discuss briefly your view of the unseen spiritual world (i.e., angels, demons, Satan).
 12. Discuss briefly the second coming of Christ, resurrection, judgement, and eternal state.
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VII. CURRENT THEOLOGICAL ISSUES

Please answer each question and where appropriate **offer some scriptural support** for your views. Try to find a balance between offering one-sentence responses that may in some cases be too simplistic, and writing an extended theological treatise.

1. Discuss briefly your biblical understanding of marriage, singleness and family. Include mention of your view on the biblical teaching of divorce and remarriage.
 2. What is your understanding of the practice of the 'controversial' spiritual gifts in the life of the church?
 3. What is your response to the current controversy surrounding worship?
 4. How do you talk about the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the only way to salvation in a pluralistic society?
 5. Discuss briefly your biblical understanding of men and women in church leadership roles and ministry involvements?
 6. Discuss your theology and practice of financial management as well as your theology and practice of work and rest.
 7. Which other current critical issues in the world do you think the church should be responding to? In what ways could the church respond?
 8. Please identify the sources, if any that were used for the completion of the two theological sections.
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VIII. READING ASSIGNMENTS

Read the two books identified below and write a short response and evaluation of approximately 250 words for each book. Individuals who have taken an Anabaptist/Mennonite history/theology course from a Mennonite Brethren school may ask for exemption from reading and reviewing *Family Matters*.

1. *Confession of Faith: Commentary & Pastoral Application* (Kindred Productions, 2000).

2. *Family Matters: Discovering the Mennonite Brethren* by Lynn Jost and Connie Faber (Kindred Productions, 2002).

My Pastoral Covenant

Because I believe God has called me to ministry in this church, I hereby promise this congregation and its leadership, and my colleagues in ministry, with God's help...

In my personal life: ... Intentionally to exercise care for my relationship with God (through spiritual disciplines), for my physical health (appropriate rest, exercise, diet), for my relationships with friends (relaxation, transparency, accountability), and to pursue purity in my thoughts, words and behaviour.

In my relationship to my family: ... If married, to love my spouse faithfully in thought, word and deed, and to love our children, nurturing them in God's ways, providing regular time for them.

In my relationship to finances: ... Gratefully to receive my compensation for ministry, sensitively discussing concerns with those responsible for establishing it; to offer pastoral ministries to individuals without showing favouritism; to give proportionately to the church; and to live as a good steward of all I have, being an example for family and church, paying bills promptly without seeking personal favours because I am a pastor.

In my relationship to ministry: ... To reflect the beauty and dignity of Jesus Christ in relationship to others in the church and community; to give my energies fully to the congregation, accepting additional responsibilities only with the consent of its leadership; to maintain confidentiality, except where this might endanger the welfare of others; and to speak truthfully with conviction and love, free of bitterness and spite.

In relationship to the congregation: ... To help lead this church to achieve the calling God has for it; to help people discover their spiritual gifts and equipping them for ministry; regularly to seek the help of others in evaluating my ministry, being open to suggestions and counsel; and to respond with integrity to requests for ministry elsewhere.

In relationship to my colleagues: ... To speak well of my colleagues, seeking to enhance their reputation and ministry; and to relate with humility and integrity to my successors in pastoral ministry, engaging in ministry functions in my former place of ministry only with my successor's approval.

In relationship to my denomination: ... To model and teach the Confession of Faith of the Mennonite Brethren; to lead this church in support of Mennonite Brethren ministries; and to support the leadership of the Mennonite Brethren to enhance our service for Christ. If I find myself no longer able to agree with the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith and/or Conference policies, I will seek the counsel of the Conference Pastor and the Faith and Life Committee regarding my continued service.

In relationship to my resignation: ... When my ministry comes to an end for any reason, I will not enter into another ministry in the same geographic area that will jeopardize or threaten the ministry of my former congregation. The appropriateness of future ministry in that area will be determined in conversation with the congregation and the Faith and Life Committee.

Congregation
Pastor's signature
Date

IX. REFERENCES

List the names and addresses of three individuals who will send letters of reference on your behalf, with at least one having served as a leader in recent church experience.

Name	Position	Complete address and phone
1.		
2.		
3.		

X. MENNONITE BRETHREN CONFERENCE COVENANT

1. Will you seek to live in mutuality and harmony with fellow workers in the Conference and at all times seek to maintain a high standard of ethics in these relationships?

Comment:

2. Will you actively seek to support and promote the programs and ministries of the Mennonite Brethren Conference?

Comment:

3. Are you willing to participate in the Manitoba Conference and be accountable to the Faith and Life Committee?

Comment:

4. Do you wholeheartedly subscribe to the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith in all its aspects?

Comment:

5. Do you have any questions or additional comments about the Mennonite Brethren Confession of

Faith or the Mennonite Brethren Conference? Are there questions that you wished would have been asked, but were not?

Signature

Date

Please send completed forms to:
Conference Pastor, Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba
83 Henderson Hwy., Winnipeg, MB R2L 1L2
Or email to: info@mbcm.ca