2023
Application Guidelines
Receiving the Credentials of an Ordained Minister of Volunteers of America
2023 APPLICATION GUIDELINES
Receiving the Credentials of an Ordained Minister of Volunteers of America

Ordination is the highest level of commitment to Volunteers of America’s ministry of service. In their special role of discipleship, ordained ministers demonstrate a superior knowledge of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and accept the responsibility of administering the Sacraments. One must be either a commissioned minister or a constituent minister of Volunteers of America in order to be eligible to receive Ordination, or to have an existing Ordination recognized.

Commissioned and constituent ministers must wait at least one year from the date of their commissioning or constituency before pursuing Ordination through Volunteers of America.

Commissioned and constituent ministers called to become ordained ministers of Volunteers of America are asked to choose one of the two Ordination processes based on their qualifications.

Receiving Ordination through Volunteers of America
This Ordination process is for any commissioned or constituent minister who feels called to become an ordained minister of Volunteers of America and who is not already ordained within another Christian church. Those ministers may pursue Ordination through the application process set forth by the Ordination committee of Volunteers of America’s Church Governing Board. Candidates who complete this Ordination process to the satisfaction of the Church Governing Board will be ordained during an official Worship Service on Saturday, June 3, 2023 in Nashville, TN.

Requesting that an Existing Ordination be Recognized by Volunteers of America
This Ordination process is for any commissioned or constituent minister who has been ordained by a Christian church with Doctrines that are in harmony with Volunteers of America’s Cardinal Doctrines. Those ministers may request that Volunteers of America recognize their Ordination. Candidates who complete this Ordination process to the satisfaction of the Volunteers of America Church Governing Board will have their Ordination formally recognized by Volunteers of America as part of an official Worship Service on Saturday, June 3, 2023 in Nashville, TN.

Click [HERE](#) to begin the application process!

All documents must be uploaded to the portal by the noted deadline. Documents submitted to ministry development staff by email or in hard copy will not be accepted. Deadline extensions will not be granted. If a candidate does not submit each part of the application by its deadline, that candidate will be withdrawn from the 2023 Ordination process.

QUESTIONS?

Any Ordination candidate who has questions as they complete their application is encouraged to contact the National Ministry Department at [ministry@voa.org](mailto:ministry@voa.org).
APPLICATION CHECKLIST – Option #1
Receiving Ordination through Volunteers of America

PART ONE – DECLARING INTENT
Deadline – Friday, September 30, 2022

___ Application to become an Ordained Minister

The application is the Ordination candidates’ opportunity to express their interest in becoming a senior minister of Volunteers of America. Ordination candidates complete and submit the electronic application form to express their interest in becoming a Volunteers of America Ordained minister. The application form collects general information to be included as part of each candidate’s file. To be considered complete, all portions of the application must be filled out and/or attached.

Ordination candidates will be required to choose a Volunteers of America ordained minister to serve as their mentor and share their selection on the application. Candidates who require assistance matching with a mentor should contact the National Ministry Department at ministry@voa.org.

Candidates must speak with their affiliate CEO and lead minister regarding their plans to become a Volunteers of America minister. The CEO and lead minister must support that candidate’s decision to pursue the role of minister and be able to incorporate that candidate into their local office’s ministry plan.

___ Individual Ministry Project Proposal

Ordination candidates will be expected to undertake a ministry project of their own design. Projects must be focused on the expansion of a candidate’s local office’s ministry plan and must receive the approval of a candidate’s CEO and lead minister. Candidates are asked to submit a brief project proposal. Candidates are asked to wait for committee approval and feedback prior to implementing their projects.

An acceptable ministry project is one that supports the mission and movement of Volunteers of America and its ministry of service. It should promote faith-filled discussion, fellowship and collaboration within the faith community. The project should also give focus and direction relevant to a candidate’s calling and should establish an avenue for providing long-term spiritual leadership within the organization.

Individual ministry project proposals should include the following:

• The basic framework of project to include primary goal and the scope of impact
• Timeline over which the project will be implemented (must run October 2022– March 2023)
• Final deliverable that will be presented to the Ordination committee

Once all PART ONE application material is received and approved by the Church Governing Board’s Ordination committee, the candidate will be contacted by the National Ministry Department.
PART TWO – PREPARATION FOR EXAMINATION (Multiple Deadlines, Below)

Individual Ministry Project Progress Report I
Deadline – Friday, November 18, 2022

Ordination candidates are expected to implement their ministry projects after receiving feedback and approval from the Ordination committee. Progress reports will serve to show the Ordination committee that candidates’ projects are on track and align with the proposals approved by the Ordination committee. The committee will review progress reports as part of the candidate evaluation process and discuss reports with candidates during Ordination oral examinations.

Progress reports must include the following:
• Measurable progress toward goals stated in the approved ministry project proposal
• How the project is supporting the spiritual development of a local office’s ministers, staff and clients
• How the project has enhanced a candidate’s own spiritual growth
• Draft of the final deliverable, or components that will be included in the final deliverable

Individual Ministry Project Progress Report II
Deadline – Friday, January 20, 2023

Ordination candidates are expected to implement their ministry projects after receiving feedback and approval from the Ordination committee. Progress reports will serve to show the Ordination committee that candidates’ projects are on track and align with Ordination committee standards and recommendations. The committee will review progress reports as part of the candidate evaluation process and discuss reports with candidates during Ordination oral examinations.

Individual Ministry Project – Final Deliverable
Deadline – Monday, March 6, 2023

Ordination candidates must submit the final project deliverable outlined in their project proposal by the above-mentioned deadline in order for their application to be considered complete. If the Ordination committee is satisfied with a candidate’s final deliverable, written exam results, and mentor letter, it will recommend the candidate to the Church Governing Board for approval for Ordination.

Oral Interviews for Ordination
April 2023

Select candidates will be invited to participate in an oral exam administered by the members of the Credentialing committee. Oral exam study questions will be given to candidates in advance of exams. Oral exams typically last 30 to 45 minutes for each candidate. During the oral exam, candidates will have the opportunity to explain their journey of spiritual development and their intent for becoming an ordained minister and will be asked to describe the progress of their ministry projects in greater detail.

Upon approval by the Church Governing Board, the candidate will be invited to receive Ordination at an official VOA Worship Service (details to be determined). Candidates can expect to receive notice of the Church Governing Board decision in April 2023.
APPLICATION CHECKLIST – Option #2
Requesting that an Existing Ordination be Recognized by Volunteers of America

PART ONE – DECLARING INTENT
Deadline – Friday, September 30, 2022

___ Application to become an Ordained Minister

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Ordination candidates will be required to choose a Volunteers of America ordained minister to serve as their mentor and share their selection on the application. Candidates who require assistance matching with a mentor should contact the National Ministry Department at ministry@voa.org.

Candidates must speak with their affiliate CEO and lead minister regarding their plans to become a Volunteers of America minister. The CEO and lead minister must support that candidate’s decision to pursue the role of minister and be able to incorporate that candidate into their local office’s ministry plan.

___ Letter of Request and Supporting Documents

The letter of request is a candidate’s opportunity to express interest in becoming recognized as an ordained minister of Volunteers of America. Candidates must include in their letter: 1) the name of the church that granted their Ordination, 2) details on the course of study that they completed before being granted Ordination and 3) offer a reference that ministry development staff or members of the Ordination committee can contact should more information be needed in evaluating the request. In addition, candidates must submit 4) a copy of their transcript(s) from Seminary or Divinity School, if applicable 5) course descriptions that support their course of study 6) a copy of the certificate or diploma issued at the time of their Ordination, 7) a copy of the issuing church’s Doctrines 8) any other documentation that would support the request. Please note, should the committee find that a candidate’s coursework does not meet the expectations of Ordination within Volunteers of America, the candidate could instead be required by the CG8 Ordination Committee to complete the application process for “Receiving Ordination through Volunteers of America.”

PART TWO – PREPARATION FOR EXAMINATION

Oral Interviews for Ordination
April 2023

Select candidates will be invited to participate in an oral exam administered by the members of the Credentialing committee. Oral exam study questions will be given to candidates in advance of exams. Oral exams typically last 30 to 45 minutes for each candidate. During the oral exam, candidates will have the opportunity to explain their journey of spiritual development and their intent for becoming an ordained minister and will be asked to describe the progress of their ministry projects in greater detail.
Upon approval by the Church Governing Board, the candidate will be invited to receive Ordination at an official VOA Worship Service (details to be determined). **Candidates can expect to receive notice of the Church Governing Board decision in April 2023.**
Ordained Minister Approval Form

Ordination is the highest level of commitment to Volunteers of America’s ministry of service. In their special role of discipleship, ordained ministers demonstrate a superior knowledge of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and accept the responsibility of administering the Sacraments. One must be either a commissioned minister or a constituent minister of Volunteers of America in order to be eligible to receive Ordination, or to have an existing Ordination recognized.

Candidate Name

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Candidate Signature

Date

Candidates must speak with their affiliate CEO, lead minister, and immediate supervisor regarding their plans to become a Volunteers of America ordained minister. The above individuals should sign and date below to indicate support the candidate’s choice to become an ordained minister.

CEO Name (Printed)

CEO Signature

Date

Lead Minister Name (Printed)

Lead Minister Signature

Date

Supervisor Name (Printed)

Supervisor Signature

Date