2023
Application Guidelines
Receiving the Credentials of a Commissioned or Constituent Minister of Volunteers of America
2023 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Receiving the Credentials of a Commissioned or Constituent Minister of Volunteers of America

Candidates who feel called to become ministers within Volunteers of America’s ministry of service are committed to reaching and uplifting all people. They embody Christian leadership and offer compassion, knowledge and the active service of God to those in the greatest of need.

In addition to being one of the nation’s largest and most comprehensive human services organizations, Volunteers of America is an interdenominational church with a unique approach to human services ministry. Through our ministry of service, Volunteers of America provides care and opportunities for people of all faiths.

Candidates may seek credentials as either a commissioned minister or a constituent minister, depending on their role within Volunteers of America.

1. A **commissioned minister** is one whose call to the ministry of service is as an employee of Volunteers of America. A candidate applying to become a commissioned minister of Volunteers of America must be at least 18 years of age and must have had at least one year of employment with Volunteers of America at the time of credentialing.

2. A **constituent minister** is one whose call to the ministry of service is as a volunteer of Volunteers of America. A candidate applying to become a constituent minister must be at least 18 years of age and have had two years of continuous and active engagement with Volunteers of America at the time of credentialing.

Prospective commissioned and constituent ministers are to follow the 2023 application guidelines found in the following pages.

**Click HERE to begin the application process!**

**Deadline extensions will not be granted.** 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. If a candidate does not submit each part of the application by its deadline, that candidate will be withdrawn from the 2023 credentialing process.

**QUESTIONS?**
If candidates have questions as they complete their application, they are encouraged to contact Ministry Development Staff, at ministry@vog.org.
PART ONE – APPLICATION
Deadline – Friday, September 30, 2022

_____ Submit Completed Constituent Member Form

In order to be eligible to become a Volunteers of America minister, candidates must be enrolled as a constituent member of Volunteers of America.

_____ Submit Prospective Minister Approval Form

_____ Select a Minister Mentor
(Must be a Volunteers of America minister.)

Candidates will be required to choose a Volunteers of America minister to serve as their mentor. Minister mentors play a critical role in helping candidates successfully complete the minister application process. Candidates who require assistance matching with a mentor should contact Ministry Department staff at ministry@voa.org.

_____ Submit Application Form for the Credentials of a Minister of Volunteers of America

Candidates complete and submit the electronic application form to express their interest in becoming a Volunteers of America 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.

The following two (2) attachments must be included with the application:

- Candidate’s Headshot Photo (JPEG Format)
- A Current Job Description (PDF Format) (If you are an employee of Volunteers of America, please submit a copy of your current job description on file with your local human resources department. In the case that you are accepted as a commissioned minister of Volunteers of America, your job description will be reviewed to determine if you qualify for minister tax status.)

PART TWO – EDUCATION, FELLOWSHIP & CAPSTONE PROJECT
Deadline – Friday, February 24, 2023

_____ Fulfillment of the Education Requirement

In October 2022, the virtual educational sessions will become available to all candidates. Candidates applying for ministry credentials are required to complete the below series of virtual educational sessions:

Candidates should note that the process of fulfilling the education requirement can be lengthy and challenging, and must be completed under the guidance of a minister mentor.

Note: All current ministers and minister candidates are welcome to attend the virtual educational sessions. More information will be shared about signing up for the sessions!
Suggested Reading: Candidates are encouraged to read the following resources.
(Copies of these books can be purchased at your favorite book retailer.)
- How to Interpret the Bible by James M. Efird
- Pastoral Care: An Essential Guide by John Patton
- Church History in Plain Language by Bruce L. Shelley
- Era of the Founders by Herbert Wispy (available on VOA Connect)

Attendance at Virtual Fellowship Experiences

There will be 5 Virtual Fellowship Experiences available for candidates to attend between October 2021 - February 2022. Candidates must attend at least 3 of these virtual events to fulfill the requirement.

Submission of a Capstone Project: Due on Friday, February 24, 2023

Candidates must submit capstone project to complete their educational requirements. The capstone project will be scenario-based responses using wisdom gained while viewing the Virtual Education Sessions.

APPLICATION REVIEW TIMELINE

Friday, September 30, 2022
Deadline for all new minister applications for the 2023 New Minister Cohort.

October 2022
Virtual Education Sessions will be available.

January 2023- February 2023
Virtual Fellowship Experiences (must attend at least 3 of 5) & MIRAC training (must attend 1 of 2) available to candidates.

February 2023
Capstone projects due. The capstone project will be scenario-based responses using wisdom gained while viewing the Virtual Education Sessions.

February 2023 - March 2023
The credentialing committee meets to discuss applications and chooses candidates to recommend for acceptance into the ministry. The chair of the credentialing committee presents recommendations to the Church Governing Board for approval. Once the Church Governing Board has approved, the new minister candidates are notified by the Ministry Development Department.

Saturday, June 3, 2023
Candidates receive credentials during the Volunteers of America annual worship service at the 2023 National Conference in Nashville, TN.
Constituent Member Enrollment Form

A constituent member is considered a member of the church of Volunteers of America and is able to vote on amendments to the organization’s Articles and Bylaws, and may elect members to its national board of directors. Constituent members are expected to be incorporated into their local office’s ministry plan and must contribute 12 volunteer hours a year to that plan in order to be considered in good standing.

1. General information (please list your full name, mailing address, email address and phone number):

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is your current association with Volunteers of America (please check all that apply)?

___ Board Member ___ Staff ___ Volunteer ___ Donor

___ Other (Please specify)

3. Do you agree with the mission statement and Cardinal Doctrines of Volunteers of America?

___ Yes ___ No

4. Give a brief description of your reason(s) for wanting to become a constituent member of Volunteers of America.

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

5. How would enrollment as a constituent member enhance your relationship with Volunteers of America?

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
As a Volunteers of America minister, I certify that ________________

Constituent Member

Member has been enrolled as a constituent member of Volunteers of America.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: _________

Minister Performing Enrollment Ceremony

Printed Name: ___________________________

As CEO of ___________________________, I certify that ________________

Volunteers of America Local Office Constituent Member

has been enrolled as a constituent member of Volunteers of America.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: _________

President/CEO

Printed Name: ___________________________
Prospective Minister Approval Form

Candidates who feel called to become ministers within Volunteers of America's ministry of service are committed to reaching and uplifting all people. They embody Christian leadership and offer compassion, knowledge and the active service of God to those in the greatest of need.

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 minister. The above individuals should sign and date below to indicate support the candidate’s choice to become a minister.

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<th>CEO Name (Printed)</th>
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