



Application to be ordained an elder, appointed a pastoral team member, or appointed a fellowship group facilitator

For use within Grace Communion International in the United States (updated 5-12-2020)

This application is to be used by men and women in GCI-USA to apply for one of the following: 1) to be ordained an elder (serving as a pastor, appointed a member of a pastoral team, or 3) to be appointed as the facilitator of a fellowship group. The applicant fills out the application then forwards it to their immediate supervisor (lead pastor or regional pastor). The application will be reviewed (as applicable) first by the lead pastor, then the RP, and then the CAD office. If all approve, the CAD office will notify the lead pastor and/or RP of approval to ordain or appoint (as applicable). The officiant then notifies the CAD office that the ordination or appointment has occurred. Those ordained an elder will be sent an ordination certificate by the CAD office. Questions concerning this application should be submitted to the applicant's immediate supervisor.

Note concerning confidentiality: GCI requires that all who have access to this application keep confidential the statements and information it contains. Violations of such confidentiality may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination and potential personal liability in a civil action. On the other hand, certain authorized individuals acting in a leadership capacity in the CAD office or as a regional pastor may receive authorization to communicate relevant information about elders serving as pastors, members of a pastoral team, or a fellowship group facilitator to regional pastors and lead pastors who have a need to know. For example, a need to share relevant information may arise when a lead pastor is transferring to another region or is a lead pastor candidate. In some circumstances, failure to disclose certain information may result in legal liability. Additionally, when an applicant is not approved, an authorized person in the CAD office may, upon the applicant's request, disclose to the applicant the nature of the information submitted about the applicant in the application without disclosing the source of that information.

Note: the applicant is to provide the information asked for in this document, beginning here:

For which of the following are you (the applicant) applying? (check one box only):

- to be ordained an elder to be appointed a pastoral team member to be appointed a fellowship group facilitator

If you are applying to be ordained an elder, in what pastoral role will you be serving? (check one box only):

- lead pastor associate pastor assistant pastor administrative elder (in a GCI denominational ministry)

Where will you be serving? (name of the GCI congregation and city where it meets): _____

Your name: First	Middle	Last	Today's date	Date of your birth	Date of your baptism
Your mailing address (street or P.O. box, city, state, zip code)			Anniversary Date if married	Your gender (M/F)	
Your email address			Your marital status (single or married)	Have you ever been divorced? (If yes, on what date?)	
Name of your spouse			Names of any children now living with you		

Answer each question below by checking the appropriate box.

- Are you in substantial agreement with GCI's *Statement of Beliefs*? yes no [Click here for Statement of Beliefs](#)
- Are you in substantial agreement with GCI's incarnational Trinitarian theology? yes no [Click here for Incarnational Trinitarian theology](#)
- Is your behavior in compliance with GCI's *Code of Ethics for Elders*? yes no [Click here for Code of Ethics for Elders](#)
- Are you a generous and consistent financial supporter of GCI? yes no
- Have you ever been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to child abuse or a crime involving actual or attempted sexual molestation or exploitation of a minor? yes no
- Have you ever been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to a crime other than a traffic violation? yes no
- Have you ever been the subject of disciplinary action by an employer or licensing organization alleging sexual or ethical misconduct? yes no
- Do you give your permission to the CAD office to conduct a criminal background check on your behalf? yes no

(Note: all those being ordained or appointed to these offices must first pass a criminal background check)

Please answer the questions that follow, expressing your personal feelings and perceptions related to the topics addressed.

1. When and how did you first become a follower of Jesus Christ? (recap your "faith story")

2. When and how did you experience God's call to pastoral ministry? How was this call affirmed by others?

3. What do you see as your principal gifts related to pastoral ministry?

4. How do you participate in evangelism (*seeking the lost*)?

5. How do you help church members grow in Christ (*nurturing believers*)?

6. How do you equip members for their participation in Christ's ministry (*equipping workers*)?

7. How do you recruit, equip, mentor/coach new leaders (*multiplying leaders*)?

8. Describe your relationship with your immediate ecclesiastical supervisor.

9. Describe your understanding of the role you will fill as an elder, member of a pastoral team, or facilitator of a fellowship group (address only the role that applies to you).

10. What is your view concerning ministry to and with young people (children, teens and young adults)?

11. What is your view concerning ministry to and with parents and married couples?

12. What is your view concerning ministry to and with older adults?

13. What is your view concerning the role of women in ministry?

14. What is your view concerning starting (planting) new churches?

15. Do you have any *reservations* about supporting GCI denominational leaders and/or about teaching GCI's doctrines and incarnational Trinitarian theology? (If you do, please elaborate below, and, if necessary, submit a separate document.)

16. What is your personal philosophy of ministry (your understanding of the nature of the church and the purpose/role of those called to serve in pastoral ministry)?

Now finish this application by reading and signing the following agreement and certification.

Applicant's agreement

I, the applicant, in consideration for the opportunity to apply for ordination as an elder, or for appointment as a member of a pastoral team, or for appointment as a fellowship group facilitator, hereby agree to the following:

1. **Limited disclosure authorization.** I authorize the CAD office or its designee (which may include, for example, a GCI-USA officer, a regional pastor, or a lead pastor, collectively, "CAD Designee") to disclose to any regional or lead pastor who has a need to know any information concerning my conduct and cooperation in GCI-USA, including information I have provided in this application or that GCI-USA discovered as a part of the application process. Such information may be released on the CAD office's initiative or in response to an inquiry.
2. **Waiver of liability agreement.** I agree to release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue GCI-USA and all CAD Designees from liability for any and all claims resulting from any loss, damage, or personal injury arising from the disclosure of information authorized under this agreement. I expressly agree that this waiver is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by law and that if any portion is held to be invalid, the balance will continue in full legal force and effect. This waiver contains the entire agreement between GCI-USA and the undersigned with respect to the subject matter, and the terms of this waiver are contractual and not merely a recital. I further agree that this limited disclosure authorization will remain in full legal force and effect as long as I am a member of GCI-USA and that the waiver will survive my membership in GCI-USA.

Having carefully read the foregoing authorization and agreement and understanding their contents, I now, voluntarily and of my own free will, indicate my agreement with both, understanding and acknowledging that this agreement is legally binding.

Applicant sign and date here: signature _____ date _____

Applicant's certification

I, the applicant, certify that all the information I have provided in all parts of this application (above) is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant sign and date here: signature _____ date _____

Thank you for completing this application, please save this document, attach any additional documentation, then email it all to your immediate supervisor (your lead pastor if there is one or, if not, your regional pastor).

Lead pastor's recommendation

(To be completed by the applicant's lead pastor. If there is no lead pastor or if the applicant will serve as the lead pastor, the regional pastor fills out this section)

- Is the applicant qualified, appropriately gifted, and available to serve in the leadership office for which they are applying? yes no
- Does the applicant demonstrate agreement with and the ability to teach in conformance with GCI doctrine and theology? yes no
- Does the applicant's behavior comply with GCI's *Code of Ethics for Elders*? yes no

I recommend that this applicant (check one of the following two boxes):

- Be ordained or appointed in accordance with the applicant's request
- Not be ordained or appointed

Confirm your assessments and recommendations in this section by signing and dating your signature here:

by _____ date _____

Regional pastor's review

(To be completed by the applicant's regional pastor—check one box for each question below)

- How have you communicated with the applicant? in person by telephone by email
- How well do you know the applicant? well somewhat little
- Have you discussed this application with the applicant's lead pastor? yes no

My assessment of this applicant is as follows (check the one box below that is applicable):

- I concur with the recommendation of the applicant's lead pastor
- I do not concur with the recommendation of the applicant's lead pastor (explain below)

Confirm your assessment in this section by signing and dating your signature here:

by _____ date _____

Church Administration and Development (CAD) office review

Application reviewed on behalf of CAD by: _____ date _____

Personal records checked: membership status financial stewardship

Criminal background report ordered, received, reviewed, paid for by the applicant, and cleared? yes no

Comments:

Based on CAD's review, this applicant is approved by GCI for the requested ordination or appointment: yes no

If the applicant is to be ordained an elder, what will their pastoral title be? _____

Authorized signature _____ date _____

- Applicant notified of disapproval (if needed): by _____ date _____
- RP and lead pastor notified of approval or disapproval: by _____ date _____
- Elder ordination certificate (when needed) mailed: by _____ date _____