

CREDENTIALING ALIGNMENT ESSENTIALS

Your first meeting with an Ordination and Licensing team involves two key elements: (1) Discerning a clear call to vocational ministry; (2) Determining whether your calling aligns with theological/doctrinal essentials of the Church of God (Anderson) of which Indiana Ministries is a credentialing body.

Indiana Ministries has identified five theological/doctrinal foundational principles that are distinctive to the Church of God (Anderson). With your journey at its initial stage, it will be the responsibility of you and your O&L team to determine that your theological understanding of these statements aligns with the Church of God, ensuring that the credential process through Indiana Ministries will be a good fit for your ministerial calling.

Submission to Scripture as our Authority: *Because “all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16)”, we acknowledge the authority of scripture, and submit to it as our guide for faith, life, and ministry.*

Embracing God's Grace and Pursuing Holiness: *While rejoicing in the wonder of God's grace and recognizing that those in Christ have been changed by it, we are deeply committed to living holy lives, both individually and collectively, in response to God's calling. (Gal 5:22-23)*

Promoting Racial Unity and Reconciliation: *We uphold and strive for racial unity and reconciliation, recognizing the value and equality of all people as part of God's diverse creation. (John 17:21; Eph 4:1-6)*

Understanding Sexual Identity and Upholding Sexual Integrity: *We uphold God's design for the two sexes – male and female – and believe that each is a gift and has an intentional purpose from God. The Old and New Testaments teach that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world and intended as a lifelong union of one biological man and one biological woman. Sexual expression is designed to be a monogamous, heterosexual marital relationship. We affirm God's design for the two sexes – male and female. For some, this means joining in a one-man, one-woman marriage – for procreation, union, and mutual delight. For others, this means celibacy which allows for undivided devotion to Christ. (Matt 19:4-5)*

Affirming Women in Pastoral Ministry: *We uphold the scriptural office of women in all positions of pastoral ministry, recognizing and supporting God's call on their lives to vocational ministry. (Acts 2:17; Gal 3:28)*