International Specialist Minister's Credential

July 2014

Competency Area 1:

Vision and Values

1.1 Expression of CRC Vision and Values

1.1.1 The candidate has been made familiar with, consents to, and outworks our Vision and Values in their local church / ministry, and is not in conflict with any of it.

1.2 CRC International Charter

1.2.1 The candidate has been made familiar with, understands, consents to, and outworks our Charter, and is not in conflict with any of it.

1.3 CRC Organisation and Relationships with Churches

- 1.3.1 The candidate has been made aware of our basic organisation and operation as a global movement, and how they are connected, accountable and covered by it, and therefore consents to it and is submitted to it.
- 1.3.2 Describe how a personal commitment to connect with other CRC churches and ministers has been outworked.

1.4 Missions

- 1.4.1 Demonstrate an awareness of the Biblical basis of world missions, including some relevant passages of Scripture.
- 1.4.2 Describe how a personal commitment, appropriate to the stage of development of the work, has been outworked in relation to World Mission.
- 1.5 Church Practice (Note: Governance & Finance covered in Section 2.8-2.10, Morality in 3.10.3)
- 1.5.1 The candidate is observing important principles, procedures and policies in the local church / ministry such as:
 - protection of children, adolescents, and women;
 - general safety with regard to violence, fire and hygiene; and
 - every believer ministry with the sharing and promotion of others in the ministry in an orderly manner.
- 1.5.2 Describe any areas requiring special attention in the cultural setting, and how they are being (or need to be) addressed.

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Competency Area 2:

Ministry Skills

2.1 Personal Evangelism

- 2.1.1 Lead a person to Christ and follow them up.
- 2.1.2 Demonstrate a clear presentation of the Gospel used to lead people to Christ.

2.2 Water Baptism

- 2.2.1 Lead a person through Water Baptism.
- 2.2.2 Clearly present the need for Water Baptism for use with a new believer.
- 2.2.3 Conduct a typical Water Baptism service in the cultural setting of the individual concerned.

2.3 Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- 2.3.1 Be baptised in the Spirit, and lead a person into the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.
- 2.3.2 Demonstrate a clear presentation of the need for Baptism in the Holy Spirit, using appropriate Scriptural texts.

2.4 Bible Study

2.4.1 Demonstrate the provision of effective Bible Study in a small group context.

2.5 Worship Services

- 2.5.1 Demonstrate experience in leading a church Service (or an approved equivalent).
- 2.5.2 Describe a typical service led by the candidate in the local setting.

2.6 Preaching

2.6.1 Demonstrate sound preaching/teaching skills, holding the attention of those present.

2.7 Special Services (as relevant)

- 2.7.1 Explain the Scriptural basis for the practice of infant dedication (versus believer's baptism).
- 2.7.2 Explain the Scriptural basis for monogamous Christian marriage and (if relevant) describe a typical marriage service the candidate relevant to the local setting.
- 2.7.3 The candidate is aware of the joy of the promise of the resurrection for those that die in Christ despite the grief of being parted for loved ones.
- 2.7.4 The candidate is aware of how to conduct funerals in the local setting, and relevant differences in handling non-Christian funerals, if relevant.
- 2.7.5 Discuss an outline of a funeral service, including a message, for a Christian person.

2.8 Organisational Finances

- 2.8.1 Describe the nature of the candidate's financial records and show how accountability and transparency is achieved.
- 2.8.2 Demonstrate the ethical and practical implications of handling finance along with a commitment to high standards in this area.

2.9 Team Work

- 2.9.1 Demonstrate the effective sharing of power.
- 2.9.2 Demonstrate effective teamwork.

2.9.3 Describe ways in which personal or cultural team work challenges have been, and should be, overcome.

2.10 Organisational Leadership

- 2.10.1 Demonstrate a basic capacity to responsibly develop, organise and lead a church or ministry.
- 2.10.2 Demonstrate the various communication skills used in the ministry, such as effective regular team meetings, records of decisions, dissemination or publication of information, as applicable.

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Competency Area 3:

Personal Development

3.1 Call of God

3.1.1 Provide a brief testimony of the candidate being led to the conviction of being called into ministry, including an awareness of any difficulty this call has meant and may mean in the future.

3.2 Personal Spiritual Practices

- 3.2.1 Demonstrate deliberate and personal prayer, worship, and the reading and study of the Bible.
- 3.2.2 Describe examples of being led by God into outworking various spiritual practices.

3.3 Marriage and Family (as relevant)

3.3.1 Marriage.

- Describe (and demonstrate where applicable) how a husband 'loves his wife as himself' and as a coheir in Christ, and how a wife loves and respects her husband.
- Demonstrate stability in marriage, including an awareness of any weakness and how these can be addressed.

3.3.2 Parenting

- Demonstrate, where relevant, the ability to raise and provide for godly children who
 are free from neglect and frustration and who appear happy and well-adjusted and
 are able to contribute appropriately.
- Describe the challenges typically observed with parenting and strategies that should be put in place to meet those.
- 3.3.3 Family. Describe any unique challenges to family members spending sufficient time together and how these challenges should be addressed.

3.4 Servanthood

3.4.1 Describe the extent to which service, and willingness to volunteer and serve, have been demonstrated in various circumstances.

3.5 Applying God's Word

- 3.5.1 Testify where the candidate has changed their behaviour to align with God's Word.
- 3.5.2 Demonstrate awareness of Scriptural qualifications in the letters to Titus and Timothy that might impact upon the decision to pursue a ministry credential and how any areas of conflict are being addressed.

3.6 Tithing and Giving

- 3.6.1 Demonstrate awareness and use of Scriptures on tithing and giving.
- 3.6.2 Describe the way in which tithing and giving are consistently outworked.

3.7 Personal Finance

- 3.7.1 Demonstrate the culturally-appropriate management of personal resources.
- 3.7.2 Demonstrate a positive reputation with people in managing financial commitments.

3.8 Relational Skills

3.8.1 Demonstrate the effective outworking of friendliness and principles for developing friendships.

- 3.8.2 Demonstrate effective handling of conflict in ministry situations which avoids excesses of timidity or over-reaction.
- 3.8.3 Describe how conflict is managed effectively and Scripturally in the local church or ministry giving examples in the following situations:
 - between members:
 - within the team:
 - between a member and the team;
 - between the team and the leader; and
 - between a member and the leader.

3.9 Spiritual Guidance

- 3.9.1 Demonstrate a Scriptural approach to seeking guidance in various matters, including those in the culture that are forbidden.
- 3.9.2 Testify of an instance of recognising and effectively responding to the Spirit's leading. 3.9.3 Describe how extra care that must be taken in seeking guidance when there is self-interest and how such a conflict of interest might be resolved.

3.10 Ethics

- 3.10.1 Describe ethical areas in which there can be a struggle with compromise in the relevant culture, and how these should be (and have been) addressed.
- 3.10.2 Show relevant examples of commitment to honesty and integrity.
- 3.10.3 Demonstrate a biblical understanding of, and personal commitment to, sexual purity.

3.11 Long-Term Planning

3.11.1 Demonstrate the importance of long-term personal planning in ministry as well as for the local church or other relevant ministry contexts, describing any current long term goals. 3.11.2 Demonstrate specific areas of spiritual, ministry and leadership growth (such as in stretching faith and practice, reading, mentoring, coaching, conferences/gatherings and courses) and an awareness of the areas in which such growth is required.

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Competency Area 4:

Theological Development

4.1 Hermeneutics

- 4.1.1 Demonstrate the use of appropriate skills for interpreting Scripture, such as using other passages, context, other translations, and the recorded thoughts of others.
- 4.1.2 Demonstrate soundness and balance in messages and/or writings.

4.2 Doctrine

- 4.2.1 The candidate holds to the basic doctrines described in Hebrews 6.
- 4.2.2 The candidate has been made aware of, including the meaning of, the CRC Statement of Faith and is committed to it.

4.3 Biblical Knowledge

4.3.1 Demonstrate awareness of the content of various parts of the Bible and its main message.

4.4 Training

4.4.1 Present any evidence of, or information from, relevant courses and seminars
participated in (whether live, on-line, or by correspondence), and any other relevant learning

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