

# WHY CREDENTIALS MATTER



**ARIZONA**  
MINISTRY NETWORK

# WHY SHOULD I GET CREDENTIALLED?

Gaining a credential with the Assemblies of God (AG) through the Arizona Ministry Network is not just a step towards formalizing one's calling in ministry; it represents a profound commitment to a life of service, accountability, and growth within a community of faith. Credentialing with the AG offers a covering that provides spiritual protection, guidance, and affirmation of one's ministry calling. It acknowledges the credential holder as someone who meets the biblically-based qualifications and doctrinal beliefs held by the AG, ensuring a standard of theological and moral integrity that is vital for effective ministry.

Credential holders also gain access to a wealth of resourcing from the AG, including educational materials, ministry tools, and opportunities for networking with other ministers. This resourcing empowers ministers to enhance their skills and expand their ministry's impact.

Fellowship with other AG ministers provides a supportive community where one can share experiences, challenges, and victories. This camaraderie fosters a sense of belonging and mutual support that is invaluable in ministry.

Credentialing also opens doors for ministry opportunities both within the AG network and in broader Christian contexts. It signifies to churches, organizations, and the community at large that the credential holder is recognized and endorsed for ministry by a respected and established fellowship.

Accountability is another critical aspect of holding an AG credential. It ensures that ministers maintain high standards of biblical teaching and ethical conduct, fostering trust within the community they serve. This accountability extends to personal growth, encouraging ministers to pursue ongoing spiritual, academic, and practical development.

Finally, the support of the Arizona Ministry Network offers a local connection to a global movement, providing regional resources, connections, and support systems that enrich the minister's work and personal life. This local network amplifies the global impact of the AG, making credentialing with the AG a valuable and meaningful step for anyone called to ministry.

Our team exists to help develop and prepare you for your calling at every level. To connect with our team about credentialing, reach out anytime to [credentials@asom.com](mailto:credentials@asom.com).



/// LEIGH METCALF

Network Secretary & Treasurer

“The miraculous power of Jesus has transformed, wrecked and changed my life in such a deep and personal way, that I have no choice BUT to give it away!”

**/// MELISSA LINDLEY, LICENSED MINISTER**

“Obtaining Credentials has allowed me to network with my peers to create a greater sense of community.”

**/// JACOB FRANKLIN, CERTIFIED MINISTER**

“Credentials are the support for my calling to ministry. Pursuing credentials has allowed me the credibility to minister in different contexts while also granting me access to an incredible support network of fellow ministers and ministry leaders.”

**/// CLAIRE WILLHITE, LICENSED MINISTER**

“For me, the Assemblies of God is the bedrock of my ministry journey. It’s more than just an affiliation; it’s a vital connection that amplifies my impact for the kingdom. Through this cherished relationship, I find invaluable support, guidance, and accountability that shape me into a better husband, father, and pastor every day. As a credentialed minister within the Assemblies of God, I’m not just part of an organization; I’m part of a family, one that nurtures my growth both professionally and personally.”

**/// BARRY SAPPINGTON, ORDAINED MINISTER**

# RESOURCES FOR MINISTERS IN THE ARIZONA MINISTRY NETWORK

Welcome to the Arizona Ministry Network—a vibrant community dedicated to fostering growth, unity, and effectiveness among ministers and churches throughout our state. With a rich tapestry of resources and departments, the Network stands as a beacon of support, offering a wide array of tools, training, and fellowship opportunities designed to equip ministers for the challenges and opportunities of serving in today's diverse and dynamic context.

From pastoral care to youth and children's ministries, from leadership development to cross-cultural outreach, our specialized

departments are committed to providing comprehensive support to meet the specific needs of each minister and congregation. By tapping into these resources, ministers across Arizona can enhance their ministry skills, deepen their spiritual lives, and extend their impact in the communities they serve.

The Arizona Ministry Network is more than an organization—it's a partnership in the gospel, empowering you to fulfill your calling with excellence and passion.

Here are a few of the resources we offer to our Arizona ministers and churches:



# THE ARIZONA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

The Arizona School of Ministry exists to elevate local church ministry through comprehensive training programs for credentialed ministers and equipped laypersons. By offering accessible theological education, practical ministry skills, and spiritual formation courses, this institution is pivotal in preparing individuals for effective service in the Kingdom of God.

"I am really grateful for ASOM. I did the majority of my education requirements for credentialing through ASOM."

/// **FRANK CUTIERREZ,  
ORDAINED MINISTER**

The School of Ministry is an invaluable asset for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of Scripture, enhance their ministry capabilities, and respond to God's call with confidence.

"I was one who kept tucking my ministry call away, because I was never sure how to get the training I needed, I couldn't afford college or just the timing with family responsibilities was off. It wasn't until I was introduced to the Arizona School of Ministry that everything fell into place."

/// **TINA DICKISON,  
ORDAINED MINISTER**



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# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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Arizona Women's Ministry stands as a beacon of hope and empowerment, touching the lives of women through the transformative power of Jesus Christ.

With a focus on outreach, ministry groups, discipleship, and special events, this department fosters a supportive community where women can discover their worth, deepen their faith, and deploy their gifts in service to others.

By emphasizing holistic growth and connection, the Women's Ministry equips female ministers and laypersons alike with the tools and encouragement to impact their world for Christ.



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# NETWORK OF WOMEN MINISTERS

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The Network of Women Ministers exists to foster connections, provide support, and empower Assemblies of God credentialed women ministers throughout Arizona. By facilitating mentorship opportunities, leadership development, and spiritual growth resources, this department champions the vital role of women in ministry.

The Network of Women Ministers not only aids those seeking credentials but also celebrates and amplifies the voices of women in leadership, affirming their God-given callings and contributions to the Church.

“The Network of Women Ministers believe the image of God is best reflected and the Church of Jesus Christ is healthiest when both men and women are empowered to fulfill their calling at every level of ministerial leadership. NWM exists to connect, encourage and inspire credentialed women, and those seeking credentials.”

/// DENISE RYAN, ARIZONA NETWORK OF WOMEN MINISTERS FACILITATOR



# MEN'S MINISTRY

The Arizona Men's Ministry is committed to forging strong, Christ-centered men ready to influence their families, churches, and communities. Through targeted outreach, teaching, and mentoring programs, this department focuses on helping men realize their full potential in Christ.

It encourages men to cultivate a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus, embrace their God-given roles, and actively engage in the mission of God. This ministry is vital for equipping male ministers with the spiritual strength and leadership skills necessary for effective ministry.



# YOUTH MINISTRY

Serving as a dynamic force for change, the Youth Ministry equips the Church to engage young people with the gospel in a manner that is both relevant and Spirit-empowered.

By focusing on discipleship, mission, and community, this department inspires youth to take personal responsibility for their faith journey and to passionately pursue God's calling. The Youth Ministry plays a crucial role in raising up a generation of leaders committed to spreading the message of Jesus Christ to every corner of the world.

"The relationships and accountability are one of the biggest things in youth and young adult ministry. We always say, 'Our greatest resource is each other.'"

/// **GRIFFIN MCGRATH, YOUNG  
ADULT & YOUTH DIRECTOR**





# YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY



Mobilizing young adults to live out an active faith, the Young Adults Ministry is dedicated to inspiring a generation to follow Jesus wholeheartedly and to make Him known across Arizona and beyond.

By fostering environments of authentic community, deep spiritual growth, and active service, this department empowers young adults to navigate life's challenges with faith and purpose. The Young Adults Ministry is essential for ministers seeking to connect with and mentor the emerging generation in their spiritual journeys.

# KIDS MINISTRY

Arizona Kids Ministry is dedicated to partnering with churches and pastors to create environments where children can encounter God in a way that is accessible and transformative. Recognizing the importance of early spiritual formation, this department provides resources, training, and support to ensure that children's ministries across the state are equipped to teach the gospel with creativity and love.

The Kids Ministry underscores the significance of ministering to children with excellence, demonstrating the profound impact of pointing young hearts to Jesus.



# PASTORAL CARE DEPARTMENT

The Pastoral Care Department is dedicated to supporting and nurturing the well-being of ministers across Arizona. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by those in ministry, this department offers resources, counseling, and programs designed to foster spiritual health, personal growth, and effective leadership.

By providing a network of support, Pastoral Care ensures ministers have access to the encouragement and assistance they need to thrive in their calling, making it an indispensable resource for sustaining vibrant and resilient leaders in service to the Church and community.

“My role as Pastoral Care Director is to assist pastors/credentialed ministers in any way possible.

Ministry is challenging and it is my privilege to provide coaching/mentoring, encouragement, pastoral counseling, and opportunities for personal growth for our network’s credentialed ministers.”

/// **JEFF PETERSON,**  
**PASTORAL CARE DIRECTOR**



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# INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

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Intercultural Ministries shines as a testament to the gospel's power to transcend cultural, ethnic, and language barriers. Dedicated to reaching every corner of Arizona with the message of Jesus Christ, this department leverages unique strategies and resources to engage diverse communities in meaningful ways.

By emphasizing cross-cultural understanding and inclusivity, Intercultural Ministries plays a critical role in ensuring the Church reflects the rich tapestry of God's creation and remains effective in its mission to all people.

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# NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

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Native American Ministries is deeply committed to serving the spiritual needs of Native American communities throughout Arizona.

By respecting cultural heritage and employing contextually relevant approaches to ministry, this department facilitates impactful gospel engagement and discipleship.

Native American Ministries fosters unity, healing, and growth, making it an essential resource for ministers seeking to honor and reach out to indigenous peoples with the love and truth of Jesus Christ.



# GENERAL COUNCIL RESOURCES FOR MINISTERS

Being a part of the Assemblies of God extends far beyond the borders of Arizona, connecting you to a global fellowship rich in history, diversity, and mission. Within this expansive network, the national office ministry resources stand as pillars of support, offering an array of tools and programs designed to enhance the ministry of AG ministers everywhere.

From AG World Missions' commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission across the globe to the Church Multiplication Network's passion for planting life-giving churches, these resources embody our collective calling to spread the Gospel. U.S. Missions focuses on reaching diverse groups

within our own borders, while discipleship resources ensure that believers grow deeply in their faith. The innovative Bible Engagement Project invites believers into a transformative journey through Scripture.

Resources like these and others represent the breadth of support available to ministers, empowering them to make a significant impact in their congregations and communities. Being part of the Assemblies of God means you're part of a global movement committed to making disciples of all nations, supported by a fellowship that provides the resources and encouragement needed to thrive in ministry.



Church health and growth strategies.

[Acts2journey.com](http://Acts2journey.com)



Equipping those called to vocational ministry.

[Calledag.org](http://Calledag.org)



Inspiring the next generation into contagious compassion for the lost

[BGMC.ag.org/Sessions](http://BGMC.ag.org/Sessions)



All the tools you need to do ministry well!

[ChurchMultiplication.net/Partners](http://ChurchMultiplication.net/Partners)  
[ChurchMultiplication.net/Funding](http://ChurchMultiplication.net/Funding)



Discipleship curriculum for all ages.

[BibleEngagementProject.com](http://BibleEngagementProject.com)



Free guide of 7 measurable outcomes for churches to develop discipleship strategy.

[Discipleship.ag.org](http://Discipleship.ag.org)



Equipping both pastors and churches for financial health.

***EmpoweringStewardship.com***



Equipping spirit-empowered people through discipleship tools, curriculum and other resources.

***MyHealthyChurch.com***



Activity-based small group for girls and young ladies, ages K-12.

***NGM.ag.org***



Activity-based small group for boys and young men, ages K-12.

***RoyalRangers.com***



Digital learning community for KidMin leaders.

***KidMinHydrate.org***



Resources to assist the local church in providing quality ministry to senior adults.

***SAM.ag.org***



A team-based tool to help kids learn God's Word and build faith that lasts a lifetime.

***BibleFactPack.com***



Raising an unconventional generation of students to reach the lost around the world.

***SpeedTheLight.com***



Strategize, train and resource ministries designed for children.

***KidMin.ag.org***



Championing and equipping women to know Jesus and walk in their God-given purpose.

***Women.ag.org***



Providing evangelical resources for missionaries and missionary partners.

***LFTL.ag.org***



Mobilizing students to reach other students & empowering churches to connect with their local schools.

***Youth.ag.org/Participate/Youth-Alive***



VBS curriculum that focuses on evangelism and impacts your community.

***MEGASpostsCamp.com***



Equipping the church until all students know Jesus, including Bible Quiz, Fine Arts and more.

***Youth.ag.org***



A national network of men taking a stand for Christ and resourcing local men's ministries.

***Men.ag.org***

# HOW TO BECOME A CREDENTIALLED MINISTER WITH THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

1

## /// MEET THE BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:

Ensure you meet the basic qualifications for credentialing with the AG, which include a personal commitment to Christ, Baptism in the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues, agreement with the AG's Statement of Fundamental Truths, and a clear calling to ministry.

2

## /// COMPLETE THE REQUIRED EDUCATION:

The AG typically requires completion of specific educational requirements for credentialing. This may include coursework through an AG-endorsed Bible college or seminary, or through a District School of Ministry like ASOM. Check with the Arizona Ministry Network for specific educational requirements for your desired level of credentialing (Certified, Licensed, or Ordained Minister).

3

## /// GAIN MINISTRY EXPERIENCE:

The AG values practical ministry experience. Engage in ministry activities within your local church or another ministry setting to gain experience and demonstrate your calling and gifts in action.

4

## /// APPLICATION PROCESS:

Obtain and complete the credentialing application from the Arizona Ministry Network. This process involves providing personal testimony of your salvation and calling to ministry, doctrinal agreement, references, and background checks.

5

## /// COMPLETE REQUIRED EXAMS AND INTERVIEWS:

Depending on the level of credentials you are seeking, you may need to pass a written exam that covers Bible knowledge, AG doctrines, and the AG Constitution and Bylaws. You will also be required to participate in an interview with network officials.

6

## /// RECEIVE APPROVAL AND CREDENTIALING:

After completing all required steps and upon approval by the Arizona Ministry Network's Credentialing Committee, your credential application will be recommended to the AG National Office in Springfield which formally issues all ministerial credentials. This process culminates in a formal recognition service at our annual Network Conference where new ministers are welcomed and acknowledged.





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