

## **Federation of Christian Ministries Religious Body Endorsement**

### **Introduction to the Process**

Welcome to the Federation of Christian Ministries (FCM) religious body endorsement site. FCM provides its members both commissioning and endorsement. However, FCM commissioning and endorsement are unique processes and not interchangeable.

Religious body endorsement is an official declaration by a religious body that a person is in good standing with that religious body, has a relationship of clear accountability with that religious body, and has met certain ethical and competency standards to serve in a specialized ministry - such as chaplaincy, pastoral counseling, or clinical pastoral education. Endorsement also means that the endorsed person represents that religious body in a specialized ministerial setting.

FCM religious body endorsement requires both written documentation and a personal interview. The documentation is written by or collected by the candidate for endorsement and sent to the CSM. All documentation must be complete before the **applicant organizes his or her endorsement committee interview**. The interview is conducted locally and should include the candidate's FCM colleague and, if possible, a board certified member of the pastoral discipline for which the candidate is seeking endorsement, e.g., a board certified chaplain, CPE supervisor, or pastoral counselor.

The local interview committee is organized by the applicant. The committee functions as the regional delegate of the FCM CSM. The committee consists of at least three persons, with one serving as Chair, another as Presenter, and another as Recorder. One member of the committee must be a member of FCM unless waived by the Committee on Specialized Ministries for reasons of necessity. **Only one member of the committee can also be a provider of one of the candidate's letter of references**. The applicant will provide the interview committee with the "Guidelines for Examination of Applicants" and the Presenter's Report Outline located on the FCM website and allow for adequate time after the interview for the committee to write their report. The applicant sends these guidelines along with the above documentation, to the committee no less than one week before the interview committee meeting. These guidelines are used to prepare the Committee Action Report, composed by the Recorder and signed by the Committee Chair at the conclusion of the interview. The Chair is responsible for keeping the interview on time and on track. The Recorder must also submit the notes or a synopsis of the interview discussion.

Candidates for endorsement must be recommended by the Committee on Specialized Ministries (CSM) and approved by the FCM Circle of Directors at the Circle of Director's meeting. Recommendation is based on a thorough review of the candidate's application

materials, letters of recommendation, verifications, and the written report from the local/regional interview committee selected and organized by the candidate.

All written materials must be emailed in **one** Portable Document Format (PDF) file at least 1 month prior to the beginning of the Circle of Directors' Meeting for which the candidate is seeking endorsement. **It is the responsibility of the candidate to find out the exact dates of the Circle of Director's meetings and to have their materials to the CSM in time for consideration.**

**Payment of the applicable application fee is to be made via PayPal.**

The FCM endorsement application is available on-line. If you have any further questions about FCM religious body endorsement, please contact the Committee on Specialized Ministries:

Email: [specmin@fcmail.org](mailto:specmin@fcmail.org)  
Chair, Christy Howard Steele: 708-285-5845 or  
Vice-Chair, Carl R. Yusavitz: 215-453-5170