



International Alliance of Messianic  
Congregations and Synagogues

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# Licensing and Ordination Qualifications and Guidelines

## **Qualifications & Guidelines for IAMCS Licensing (Intern) Program leading to Ordination**

- 1. Salvation Experience**
  - a. Personal salvation for at least five years.
  - b. Exhibiting strong growth and personal walk with the L-rd.
  
- 2. Relationship to MJAA/IAMCS.**
  - a. Membership in the MJAA for at least three years.
  - b. Congregation is a member of the IAMCS or applicant.
  - c. Committed to the goals and purposes of the MJAA/IAMCS.
  - d. Regularly attends national & regional conferences of MJAA.
  - e. Attends IAMCS Rabbi's Conferences.
  - f. Agreement with the MJAA/IAMCS Doctrinal statement.
  
- 3. Character References (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)**
  - a. Should be known by at least 3 members of the IAMCS Steering Committee or at least 5 members of the MJAA Executive Committee.
  - b. Morally above reproach (including finances of congregation).
  - c. Wife also demonstrates calling to the ministry and Messianic Judaism.
  - d. Committed to your own family and "house in order."
  - e. Three references by Messianic Rabbis or other Messianic leaders.
  
- 4. Calling**
  - a. Is called not only "to the Jewish people," but "to be a part of the Jewish people."
  - b. Has demonstrated vision of Messianic Judaism and is committed to it.
  - c. Peer recognition regarding calling in Messianic Judaism and as a Messianic Rabbi.
  
- 5. Experience and Training in the Ministry. (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Tim. 3:1-7)**
  - a. One who has been an Elder under another recognized Messianic Rabbi or Pastor (preferably Messianic) who feels the call now to be a Senior, Associate, or Assistant Messianic Rabbi or Messianic Pastor. The IAMCS will also license and ordain for the office of Messianic Teacher (must have a national/international teaching ministry) and Messianic Chaplain those candidates who are existing leaders in IAMCS Synagogues/ Congregations.
  - b. Has had some pastoral experience; preferably currently has a congregation that is Messianic.
  - c. Must be a Senior, Associate, or Assistant Messianic Congregational leader (or similarly for Messianic Teacher or Messianic Chaplain) for at least 2 years, but typically for 3 years, before receiving Full Ordination.

- d. Has exhibited pastoral & leadership abilities to the Steering Committee of the IAMCS.
- e. Has attended 3 National Rabbi's Conferences of the IAMCS and attended 2 Messianic Rabbi's Training Tracks at the 'Messiah' Conferences.
- f. Has an understanding of Messianic Synagogues and Congregations, biblically and practically.
- g. Has an understanding of Revival for the Jewish people.

**6. Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)**

- a. Clear and demonstrable knowledge of the Scriptures obtained through Bible School, apprenticeship, etc.
- b. Ability to teach and preach the Word of G-d.
- c. Views are in accord with the MJAA/IAMCS Doctrinal Statement of Faith.
- d. Views also in accordance with an "orthodox" believer's Biblical perspective.
- e. Some college education preferred.

**7. Jewish Studies**

- a. Working knowledge of Jewish history, culture and customs.
- b. Some knowledge of Hebrew (liturgical, conversational & biblical).
- c. Understanding of Zionism and prophetic restoration of the nation of Israel and commitment to Israel.
- d. Complete required number of IAMCS Yeshiva courses (at least 6) during the Licensing process.
  - Mandatory Course #1 – Area: Theology
  - Mandatory Course #2 – Area: History
  - Mandatory Course #3 – Area: Apologetics
  - Mandatory Course #4 – Area: Leadership Development
  - Mandatory Courses #5& 6 – Electives from any course area
- e. Final Examination will be required upon request for full Ordination (at the end of the 2 years in the Licensing/Intern program)

**8. Ceremonial**

- a. Should understand Shabbat biblically and know how to perform a Shabbat service.
- b. Knowledge concerning appropriate Hebrew blessings and customs.
- c. Understanding of importance of Davidic worship and praise.
- d. Knowledge and ability to perform services for High Holy Days.
- e. Knowledge and ability to perform Passover Seder.
- f. Knowledge and ability to perform services for Shavuot, Sukkot, Hanukkah, and Purim.
- g. Knowledge and ability to perform services for B'rit Milah and Dedication.
- h. Knowledge and ability to perform services for T'vilah (Immersion).
- i. Knowledge and ability to perform services of New Covenant Passover.

j. Knowledge and ability to perform cultural occasions such as weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, Bat Mitzvahs, funerals, unveilings, etc.

**Request for an application to enter the 2-year licensing/Intern program should be emailed to Messianic Rabbi Joel Liberman, IAMCS Director of Operations & Development at: [ordination@iamcs.org](mailto:ordination@iamcs.org)**