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U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

**MINISTRY LICENSING**

**APPLICATION**

**AND COVENANTS**

**MINISTRY LICENSING APPLICATION**

**PLEASE SEND TO THE DISTRICT TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:**

**United States Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches**

7348 W 21st Suite 115, Wichita, KS 67205 offices@usmb.org

**National Director: Don Morris**

1433 NW 150th St. Edmond, OK 73013 don@usmb.org

DISTRICT MINISTERS:

**Central District Conference: Rick Eshbaugh** reshbaugh@msn.com

1106 N. Garfield Ave. Dell Rapids, SD 57022

**Latin America District Conference: Aaron Hernandez** aronmasale@yahoo.com

PO Box 52, La Grulla, TX 78548

**Eastern District Conference: Terry Hunt**

PO Box 2697, Lenoir, NC 28645 pastortwh@gmail.com

**Pacific District Conference: Jordan Ringhofer**

1717 S. Chestnut Ave. Fresno, CA 93702-4709 jordan.ringhofer@fresno.edu

**Southern District Conference: Tim Sullivan**

7348 W. 21st St., Suite 115, Wichita, KS 67205-1765 tsully@sdcmb.org

U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

*Procedure:* All pastoral staff members serving in Mennonite Brethren Churches in official paid or volunteer capacities are required to be licensed by the appropriate District Faith and Life leadership.

The licensing process is initiated by the local church Board sending a request to the District Minister recommending the individual for licensure. Following receipt of such a request, the application is sent to the licensing candidate for completion. When complete, the questionnaire is returned to the District Minister, who will then schedule an interview with members of the District Board of Faith and Life. Following a successful interview, a license will be issued by the District. The license will expire at the conclusion of that particular ministry.

*Instructions:* This document may be completed by computer using Microsoft Word (or a compatible word processor) and emailed to the appropriate person. If completing by hand, please print clearly with black ink. If using a typewriter or computer/printer, please be certain the printing aligns with the form. Please use a clear font.

*Requirements:* The licensing candidate is required to read Faber, Connie and Jost, Lynn, *Family Matters: Discovering the Mennonite Brethren*, Winnipeg and Hillsboro: Kindred Productions, 2002 AND the entire *Confession of Faith of the Mennonite Brethren Conference* AND the following articles available on the [www.usmb.org](http://usmb.org/departments/Board-of-Faith-and-Life.html) website: In the USMB Family section, *What We Believe*, *Our Story* and *Anabaptism*, including the *12 Principals of Anabaptism.*

The following is an additional recommended resource, available to assist in the completion of the application and may be ordered from Kindred Productions online at [www.kindredproductions.com](http://www.kindredproductions.com).

*Commentary and Practical Application of the Confession of Faith*, Winnipeg and Hillsboro, Kindred Productions, 2000.

Application cost is $20.00, which includes all required materials and shipping costs. Payment to be submitted with the completed application to the appropriate office. (Addresses listed on page 2.)

1. Name: 2. Date: / /

 Last First Middle

3. Present Mailing Address:

 City State/Province Zip Code

*If temporary, give forwarding address & date effective ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­*

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Birth date: / / 5. Age: 6. Birthplace: 7. Male [ ] Female [ ]

 M / D / Y City State

 8. Citizenship: By Birth [ ] By Naturalization [ ]

(If you are a paid employee, do you have the proper documentation required by law for employment in the United States?) [ ] Yes [ ] No

9. Marital Status: Single [ ] Engaged [ ] Married [ ] Widowed [ ] Separated [ ] Divorced [ ] Remarried [ ]

 Have you ever been divorced? Yes [ ] No [ ]

1. Name of Spouse or Fiancé(e):

 Marital Status: Single [ ] Engaged [ ] Married [ ] Widowed [ ] Separated [ ] Divorced [ ] Remarried [ ]

 *(check all that apply)*

1. Date and location of Marriage:

 Date City State

1. Names and Birthdates of Children or other Dependents:

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13. List all schools attended since high school:

 School Location Years attended Degree Granted

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14. List all ministry positions held:

 Position Church/Organization Location When(from/to) Responsibilities

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15. List all non-ministry employment (exclude jobs held during school):

Position Employer When (from/to) Responsibilities

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1. Denominational affiliation:

If coming to the Mennonite Brethren from another denomination or non-denominational church, please identify the regional denominational official to whom you were accountable, or if non-denominational, the local church supervisor to whom you were accountable.

Supervisor: Name: Phone/email:

1. Current Ministerial status: Ordained [ ] Licensed [ ] Other [ ]

 By what organization?

*The following questions may be answered with a simple yes/no and qualified with an explanation if necessary.*

18. Do you have the inner conviction and assurance that you have been born again through the Word and the Spirit on the basis of the finished work of Christ? Yes [ ] No [ ] Comment:

19. Do you have an inner conviction that the Lord has called you to the gospel ministry? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

20. If married, is your spouse in agreement with you in your call of God to the gospel ministry, and

will your spouse be supportive in this role? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

21. Does your spouse have the inner conviction and assurance that he/she has been born again through the Word and the Spirit on the basis of the finished work of Christ? Yes [ ] No [ ] Comment:

22. Do you and/or your spouse have any unresolved marital tensions that could impact adversely on your ministry effectiveness? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

23. Do you have a civil or criminal record of any kind? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

24. Is your life free from the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, pornography and other habit-forming substances or harmful addictions? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

25. Have you managed your finances well and do not have financial obligations that could create a hardship for you or the local church? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

26. Do you have any health conditions that would prevent you from carrying out your ministry responsibilities?

Comment: Yes [ ] No [ ]

27. Are there unresolved conflicts in previous ministry relationships? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

28. Have there been incidents and/or accusations of moral, ethical or sexual indiscretions in your life?

Comment: Yes [ ] No [ ]

29. Have you been baptized as a believer subsequent to your confession of faith? Yes[ ] No [ ]

By which mode?

Comment:

30. Have you read the entire Confession of Faith of the United States Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (USMB) and are in you in full agreement with each article? Yes [ ] No [ ]

*(If not, please attach a statement explaining where you personally differ in your theological understanding).*

31. Do you agree to abide by the constitution, and/or by-laws, of the USMB and District Conferences

of Mennonite Brethren Churches which have jurisdiction in the area within which you reside? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

32. Have you received or read online a copy of the USMB Bylaws? Yes [ ] No [ ]

33. Have you received or read online a copy of the District Bylaws where you will reside/serve?

 Yes [ ] No [ ]

34. Will you seek to live in mutuality and harmony with fellow workers in the USMB and District Conferences and at all times seek to maintain a high standard of ethics in these relationships? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

35. Will you actively support and promote the programs and ministries of the U.S. and District Mennonite

Brethren Conferences and serve in mutual submission as a faithful ministry colleague? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Comment:

The following questions are to be answered in the form of a paper, using a clear font. Each question should be answered with at least a paragraph, explaining your personal convictions and beliefs clearly. The paper will likely be 3-5 pages in length, single-spaced.

1. How did you come to faith in Christ?
2. How did you experience God’s call to ministry?
3. What are your spiritual gifts?
4. What are your strengths/weaknesses?
5. What was your home life like growing up?
6. Discuss your view of the authority of the Bible.
7. Discuss your view of the atonement.
8. What do you think are additional critical theological and ethical issues of today?
9. What is your view on the role and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and the church?
10. What is your view on divorce and remarriage?
11. What do you appreciate about the history and theology of the Mennonite Brethren?
12. What questions or concerns do you have about serving with the Mennonite Brethren?
13. Discuss your view of the use of power and authority in the church and denomination.
14. What questions or responses do you have after reading *Family Matters?*
15. Having read the *Membership/Affiliation Covenant,* will you commit to partnering with the Denominational and local leadership in the fulfillment of these objectives?
16. Will you, after reviewing the document entitled *My Pastoral Covenant,* affirm these commitments and affix your signature accordingly?

09/2020

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***USMB***

***Membership/Affiliation Covenant***

We agree to the following as it concerns our involvement with the U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the appropriate District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

✓ We commit ourselves to abide by the Bylaws of both the District and USMB.

* Our church will consider ourselves to be a Mennonite Brethren Church in all respects, including our church’s actions, teachings and ministries.
* Our church will respect the Confession of Faith of the Mennonite Brethren Church and will participate in the community dialogue which shapes our beliefs.
* We will include reference of our affiliation/membership with the MB Conference of Churches in our church by-laws and/or church constitution.
* Our church will participate regularly in the conventions, conferences, missions, and programs of the USMB and of our District Conference.
* We commit to providing regular conference financial support in the future, to both the USMB and our District Conference.
* We will educate ourselves concerning the Mennonite Brethren Mission, Vision, and Core Values.
* We commit to staying informed about and being involved in the future vision of the US Conference of MB Churches in the U.S.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Pastor) (Date)

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(Church Leader) (Date)

09/2020



**My Pastoral Covenant**

Because I believe God has called me to ministry in this church, I hereby promise this congregation and its leadership, and my colleagues in ministry, with God’s help...

**In my personal life:** ... To exercise care for my relationship with God (through spiritual disciplines), for my physical health (appropriate rest, exercise, diet), for my relationships with friends (relaxation, transparency, accountability), and to pursue purity in my thoughts, words and behavior.

**In my relationship to my family:** ... To love my spouse, if married, faithfully in thought, word and deed; if parenting, to invest time to love and nurture our children in God’s ways; if single, to nurture meaningful and right relationships with friends who provide appropriate emotional support.

**In my relationship to finances:** ... To receive my compensation for ministry gratefully, sensitively discussing concerns with those responsible for establishing it; to offer pastoral ministries to individuals without showing favoritism; to give proportionately to the church; and to live as a good steward of all I have, being an example for family and church, paying bills promptly without seeking personal favors because I am a pastor.

**In my relationship to ministry:** ... To reflect the beauty and dignity of Jesus Christ in relationship to others in the church and community; to give my energies fully to the congregation, accepting additional responsibilities only with the consent of its leadership; to maintain confidentiality, except where this might endanger the welfare of others; and to speak truthfully with conviction and love, free of bitterness and spite.

**In relationship to the congregation:** ... To help lead this church to achieve the calling God has for it; to help people discover their spiritual gifts and equip them for ministry; regularly to seek the help of others in evaluating my ministry, being open to suggestions and counsel; and to respond with integrity to requests for ministry elsewhere.

**In relationship to my colleagues:** ... To speak well of my colleagues, seeking to enhance their reputation and ministry; and to relate with humility and integrity to my successors in pastoral ministry, engaging in ministry functions in my former place of ministry only with my successor’s approval.

**In relationship to my denomination:** ... To model and teach the Confession of Faith of the Mennonite Brethren; to lead this church in support of Mennonite Brethren ministries; and to support the leadership of the Mennonite Brethren to enhance our service for Christ. If I find myself no longer able to agree with the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith and/or Conference policies, I will seek the counsel of the District Minister and the Board of Faith and Life regarding my continued service.

**In relationship to my resignation:** ... When my ministry comes to an end for any reason, I will not enter into another ministry in the same geographic area that will jeopardize or threaten the ministry of my former congregation. The appropriateness of future ministry in that area will be determined in conversation with the congregation and the District Board of Faith and Life.

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**Congregation****Pastor’s Signature** **Date**