

# CREDENTIALS IN THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

## Permanent Credentials

Transferable within denomination.  
Active when in call.

**OWSa**  
Ordained to Word and  
Sacrament

- Primary role is teaching/preaching; sacraments of church
- Appropriate for senior pastor role
- M.Div. or equivalent required

**OWSe**  
Ordained to Word and Service

- Primary role is area of specialization while also contributing to whole of the church
- Called to staff ministry
- 48 hour M.A. or equivalent required. Must show coursework in specialization.

**CSM**  
Commissioned Staff Minister

- Focuses on area of specialization
- Called to staff ministry
- B.A. required with coursework in specialization.
- “Core four” seminary courses required.

**CM**  
Consecrated Missionary

- For non-ordained or commissioned long-term missionaries.
- Called and affirmed by Serve Globally.
- Four seminary courses required.

## Renewable Licenses

Expire every June 30<sup>th</sup>. Valid only when in call.

**BVL**  
Bi-Vocational Ministry License

- For those in ministry Part-time or who are volunteers.
- Or for those in full-time ministry whose primary source of income is from secular employment
- Must take Vocational Excellence within 2 years.
- Yearly prescribed reading program required.

**ML**  
Ministry License

- Used while in process towards permanent credential OR can be renewed indefinitely
- Paid for 20 or more hours per week
- Within 8 years takes 4 seminary courses, if not already completed.

**GSL**  
Global Service License

- For those serving as missionaries through Serve Globally.
- May be used while in process toward permanent credential.

\* Eligible for clergy tax benefit if paid for position at ministry setting.  
 ✓ Must either enroll in Covenant Orientation, CHET, or complete orientation through degree program at North Park Theological Seminary  
 + Participation in the Covenant Pension Plan or ministers’ 403(b) plan required.