



The Christian  
Officiant Program

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## **Christian Leaders Alliance Officiant Handbook**

Christian Leaders Alliance has been overseeing a rigorous ministry training and officiant program since 2014. This program includes credentialing that requires local recommendations and commissioning. Christian Leaders Alliance works with officiants who take local ministry seriously.

Who is the Christian Leaders Alliance Officiant Handbook for? It is for those...

- Called to the exciting field of Christian Officiating.
- Seeking to connect to invite local ordained ministers to agree to mentor Christian Leaders Alliance officiants
- Local government officials who need to know about the training, credentialing, and credibility of Christian Leaders Alliance officiants.

### **THE CHRISTIAN OFFICIANT PROGRAM**

Christians in every community sense the calling to serve in ministry. Christian Leaders Alliance is a United States religious 501 (c) 3 whose mission is to train and credential more ministry leaders. A significant part of that mission is to credential the role of those officiating. Officiating is about bringing people together to welcome the God of the Bible into their lives, marriage, families, churches, and communities.

### **What is a Christian Officiant?**

A Christian officiant is, first of all, a Christian. Someone who believes in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. A Christian believes the Bible is God's revelation to humanity from God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, written down for us.



A Christian officiant is a person, typically a priest, minister, or pastor who performs a religious service or liturgy, offers prayers or blessings, or conducts a ceremony like a wedding, Lord's Super, funeral, dedication, or baptism. Christian Leaders Alliance Officiants can perform these duties on behalf of a local church or under the authority of the Christian Leaders Alliance.

A Christian Leaders Alliance officiant may be a newly trained Christian who is asked to perform a wedding for the first time. This officiant is a specialized Christian Wedding Officiant. A Christian Leaders Alliance officiant could be a seasoned minister who offers themselves to serve the officiating needs of a local community sanctioned by their local church or through the Christian Leaders Alliance.

## **Christian Leaders Alliance Credentialing Methodology**

### **1. Study Ministry Training**

Christian Leaders Alliance partners with Christian Leaders Institute. The Christian Leaders Institute provides tuition-free ministry study courses.

### **2. Submit to a Minister Credential Process, including Local Endorsements**

After candidates for ministry credentials complete their ministry training classes, they go through a ministry recognition process. That is when they must gather recommendations from people who know them. Then the candidates are prayed over and commissioned to their officiant role. After this process, they will be given minister/clergy status. They can order their minister credentials.

### **3. Posted on the Global Minister Directory**

After they are given minister status, the newly credentialed minister



will be posted in the official [Christian Leaders Alliance Directory](#). Government officials can verify the minister credentials of a Christian Leaders Alliance minister.

### **What are the Officiating Minister Roles?**

The Christian Leaders Alliance includes over 4,000 credentialed clergy ministers. Each of these ministers can function in an officiating role. Christian Leaders Alliance has established five core minister roles. Each core role includes appropriate training and local endorsements.

**Officiants** – The Officiant program begins with training and credentialing to perform local weddings. This role is suited for a Christian leader who wants to operate a ministrybiz in their community. It is also for someone connected to a local church who is commissioned at that local church to serve couples who want to get married. A local ordained elder or deacon may want to be credentialed as a wedding officiant. The officiant must gather one recommendation.

**Commended Ministers** – The Commended Minister program consists of several mini-courses and complete courses that prepare a volunteer minister for fruitful service in a local church. These commissioned ministers have all the training of a wedding officiant and may want to serve as an officiant through this credentialing. Commissioned ministers must gather one recommendation. This program would be ideal for local elders and deacons.

**Coaching Ministers** – The Coaching Minister program comprises many ministry courses, coaching, and life coach training for ministry application. A coaching minister in a local church offers your church and community another way to help people live well in



Christ. This program requires two recommendations. The Coaching Minister program also includes officiant training, so the coaching minister may also be called upon to perform weddings.

**Licensed Ministers** – The Licensed Minister program consists of a well-rounded program of ministry courses, including mini-courses and college-level courses. Licensed ministers are often considered for part-time employment in a local church. This program requires two recommendations. The licensed ministers are ministry trained to perform weddings as well as all the other Christian officiating needs.

**Ordained Ministers** – The Ordained Minister program has more extensive training in ministry, including more college-level ministry courses. Ordained ministers often become pastors and are employed part-time or full-time at local churches. This program requires the gathering of three recommendations. The Ordained ministers have extensive training in all officiating functions. An ordained minister at Christian Leaders Alliance is prepared and credentialed to serve as an officiant in many different settings.

### **Specializations**

Christian Leaders Officiants have access to over 30 specializations. This Christian Leaders Alliance Officiant Handbook will not go into the details of these roles. [Click here to see the specialization roles](#). These specializations include marriage topics concerning matchmaking, sex education, remarriage counseling, and healthy marriage. There are also specializations such as prayer and public speaking. Christian Leaders Alliance Officiants have many opportunities to grow and serve more effectively at a local church or community.



## **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MINISTER CREDENTIALING?**

### **What Are Online-Only Transactional Documents and Credentials?**

Ordination Mills require no ministry training, recommendations, or local church connections. They are online monetary transactions that result in someone getting sent minister or clergy documents or credentials. Many places in the United States frown on or do not approve of these documents.

### **What Are Traditional Minister Credentialing Programs and Credentials?**

Christian churches, denominations, and alliances grant minister credentials through programs that include:

#### **Ministry Training**

Traditionally, ministers are required to receive appropriate ministry training dealing with their areas of concentration. For instance, Christian Wedding Officiants from Christian Leaders Alliance are required to complete a one-credit wedding officiant skills course that covers all the essential aspects of weddings.

There are lectures, reading materials, and quizzes that are graded. Like most educational institutions, the training can now be done online, making it more convenient. Christian Leaders Alliance is blessed to be connected to Christian Leaders Institute which delivers high-quality online ministry training.

#### **Commending or Endorsements**

The Apostle Paul modeled for the early church the principle of



commending or endorsing.

**Romans 16:1** *I commend to you Phoebe, our sister, a minister (deacon) of the assembly at Cenchreae.*

Ordination mills do not require that someone endorses the candidate as an officiant. Christian Leaders Alliance has endorsement requirements connected to the responsibilities of the minister or officiant role. For instance, a wedding officiant needs one endorsement, a licensed minister needs two, and an ordained minister needs three.

## **Commissioning**

After someone is ministry trained and commended, traditional credentialing includes the laying on of hands and a commissioning prayer of blessing. This commissioning can be done in a home church, a local church, or a Christian ministry. This practice reflects the New Testament credential practice.

**2 Timothy 1:6** *For this cause, I remind you that you should stir up the gift of God which is in you through the **laying on** of my hands.*

## **Public Directory**

The public directory shows that the minister has completed the credentialing program. Christian Leaders Alliance maintains a Minister Credential Directory where officiants and ministers can be searched for or queried.

## **Case Studies**

The state of Tennessee has sought to crack down on ordination mills. In 2019, lawmakers of Tennessee outlawed “online only” ordination. They felt that filling out a form for an instant ordination was not a “considered, deliberate, and responsible act” of becoming





a legitimate wedding officiant. The Christian Leaders Alliance ordination is freely accepted in Tennessee. [Click here for more details](#)

## **DETAILS ABOUT CHRISTIAN LEADERS ALLIANCE**

### **Registered as a Religious Non-Profit in 2007**

The Christian Leaders Alliance is a ministry of Christian Leaders, NFP. Christian Leaders, NFP is a 501 (c) 3 Religious non-profit granted religious exemption in 2007 from the United States Government for worldwide ministry.

There is an IRS determination letter for Christian Leaders Alliance as a ministry of Christian Leaders, NFP. Download Letter [IRS CLA LETTER-1](#)

The Christian Leaders Alliance is recognized as a ministry-credentialing religious organization in all fifty states and many places worldwide. Each credentialed minister is endorsed and commissioned to serve in the local church and community.

### **Credentialed Ministers are permitted to:**

Minister in denominational, non-denominational, and Alliance churches, church plants, and local community ministries. Perform official clergy functions such as officiating weddings and other officiating events or occasions.

Christan Leaders, NFP, was chartered to bring “reproducible” Christianity to the world. Our charter documents include religious activities such as credentialing leaders and educational purposes covering the training of ministers through the Christian Leaders Institute and College. Download a copy of the [Article of Incorporation – illinois0001](#)



## **Christian Leaders Alliance History**

The Christian Leaders Alliance was started as a division of Christian Leaders, NFP. Christian Leaders was co-founded by Rev. Henry Reyenga, Ron Parr, and Richard DeVos on September 20, 2001, in response to the attacks on New York City. Rev. Reyenga was in NYC on 9/11/2001, and the events of that day inspired him to raise more Christian leaders to bring Christ's love to the world.

Since that time, Christian Leaders, NFP, developed three main divisions. They are Christian Leaders Institute, Christian Leaders Alliance, and Christian Leaders College. The Christian Officiants website is a program of the Christian Leaders Alliance.

### **Christian Leaders, NFP, Board of Directors:**

Dr. James Hunt

Brian DeCook, Secretary

Ed VanDrunen (Legacy)

David Zillig

Henry Reyenga, President

Roy Lucus

Chris Branoff, Vice President

Debbie Roesch

## **Christian Leaders Alliance Global Ministers Commission**

The **Global Ministers Commission** exists to provide these servant-leaders with a connecting point to encourage, inspire, and support current and future Christian Leaders Alliance Commended, Licensed, or Ordained Ministers. [See Global Ministers Commission](#)



## Organizational Details

Christian Leaders, NFP, operates as [Christian Leaders College](#), [Christian Leaders Institute](#), and [Christian Leaders Alliance](#). It has World Headquarters in Spring Lake, Michigan, and Clearwater, Florida. Christian Leaders, NFP, is registered in the states of Illinois, Michigan, and Florida.

### Michigan Address:

17771 West Spring Lake Rd  
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456  
Phone: 616-777-0305  
Phone Hours: 8:30-15:00

### Florida Address:

7600 Bryan Dairy Rd  
Largo, Florida, 33777  
Phone: 727-230-1036

Each year an audited statement is submitted to our board of trustees by The CPA Firm of Lambert Kamp, Orland Park, IL.

## Christian Leaders, NFP, Inclusion and Disclosure Policy for Christian Leaders Alliance, Christian Leaders Institute, and Christian Leaders College

\*Christian Leaders, NFP, teaches from a Biblical worldview and has a [Statement of faith](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and [Terms and Conditions](#). These documents guide the ministry credential program.

We do not discriminate against the opportunity to study or be posted with ministry credentials based on ethnicity, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, immigration or migration status, economic circumstances or strata, previous Christian religious tradition, or ability to donate for the free training at the Christian Leaders Institute.



## **Reporting Moral Failure in Ministers**

Credentialed ministers are expected to live godly and moderate lives, as reflected in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Any form of illegal verbal, sexual, or physical abuse will not be acceptable or tolerated. We ask those who recommend any minister in the program to inform us if there is a moral failing that disqualifies the minister from being considered in good standing.

Please email [hreyenga@christianleaders.net](mailto:hreyenga@christianleaders.net) to report moral failure.

Please contact us about any charge given against a recognized minister.

**17771 West Spring Lake Rd**

**Spring Lake, Michigan 49456**

**Phone: 616-777-0305**

**Phone Hours: 8:30-15:00 (8:30am-3:00pm)**



## **CHRISTIAN LEADERS ALLIANCE STATEMENT OF FAITH**

This Statement of Faith is shared in the Christian Leaders family of ministries and websites, including the ChristianOfficers.com website.

### **The Bible**

The Bible is God's inerrant, infallible, reliable Word, the only final authority for faith and life. (Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 8:20; John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

### **Who is God?**

God is Trinity; an eternal, loving unity of three divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 14:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

### **God Created The World**

God created the universe ex nihilo, from nothing, and made all things very good. (Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11; Hebrews 11:3)

### **God Created Humanity**

God created humanity in his image to glorify and enjoy God and to be stewards of creation. (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8; Isaiah 43:7; Revelation 4:11; Psalm 37:4)

### **The Fall**

Humanity has fallen into sin, and we are totally unable to save ourselves. (Genesis 3; Romans 3:12, 23; Romans 5:12)

### **Who is Jesus?**

Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel, is fully God and fully man. (Matthew 1:21-23; John 1:1,14; 20:28; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:14)

### **Jesus' Life and Victory**

Jesus was born of a virgin, obeyed God perfectly, worked great



miracles, died on a cross, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and reigns over all things. (Luke 1:26-35, Hebrews 4:15; John 14:11, Luke 23-24, Ephesians 1:20-23)

### **Salvation is a Work of God**

God's salvation is merited only by Jesus' perfect obedience and substitutionary atonement. (Isaiah 53; Hebrews 7:26-27; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 4:12)

### **Salvation is Not Our Work**

Salvation is entirely God's gift, not our achievement, and is received by faith in Christ, not works. (John 3:16; Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 2:16-21)

### **The Holy Spirit was Sent to Earth and Fills Us**

The Holy Spirit gives new birth, unites us to Christ, assures us of His love, leads us in His truth, forms us in His character, equips us with His gifts, and empowers us to be His ambassadors. (John 3:3-8; Acts 1:8; Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 3:16-21)

### **The Church**

The church is the one body of God's people throughout all generations and from all nations. (Romans 12:5; Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 1:22-23; Revelation 7:9)

### **Angels of God**

God's holy angels defend and help God's people. (Psalm 34:7, 91:11; Matthew 18:10; Hebrews 1:14)

### **Fallen Angels**

Satan and other fallen angels are dangerous but doomed. Christ is the victor. (Ephesians 6:10-18; Colossians 2:15; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:10-12)



## **Christ Will Return and the Dead Will Be Raised**

Christ will return visibly. The dead will be raised. Christ will rule the world and make all things new. (Matthew 24:30; 1Cor. 15:52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 21:1-5)

## **New Heaven and New Earth**

God's people will rejoice forever in the new heaven and new earth; God's enemies will suffer forever in hell. (Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 22:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 1:9)

## **God Designed Marriage**

Sexual intimacy is for marriage only. Christian marriage is a lifelong union of a man and a woman. (Genesis 2:22-25; Matthew 5:27-32; Matthew 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7:1-11)

## **God Relates to Families**

God's covenant addresses not only individuals but also their families. (Genesis 17:7; 18:19; Deuteronomy 7:9; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 103:17; Acts 11:14; 16:15,31)

## **We Are Able to Walk with God**

As individuals, as couples, and as families, we need a daily conversation with God through Bible reading and prayer. (Psalm 1; Daniel 6:10; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

## **We Love Because He Loved Us**

God calls us to a holy life of love, as depicted in the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:1-17; Mark 12:30-31; John 14:15; Romans 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 13)

## **We Honor Christ in Everything**

God calls us to a worldview and way of life in which we seek to honor Christ in every area of thought and action. (Psalm 24:1;



Colossians 3:17; 2 Corinthians 10:5)

### **We Share the Good News**

God calls us to spread the gospel to people who don't yet follow Christ. (Psalm 96:3; Matthew 5:14; Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 3:15)

#### ***Web-Links (Document References)***

Specializations (page )

<https://www.christianleadersalliance.org/minister-specialization-roles/>

Case Study (page )

<https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org/becoming-a-tennessee-wedding-officiant/>

IRS CLA Letter 1 (page )

<https://www.christianleadersalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/IRS-CLI-LETTER-1.pdf>

Article of Incorporation – illinois0001 (page )

<https://www.christianleadersalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/article-of-incorp-illinois0001.pdf>

Christian Leaders, NFP, Board of Directors (page )

<https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org/board/>

Global Ministers Commission (page )

<https://www.christianleadersalliance.org/global-ministers-commission/>

Statement of faith, Privacy Policy

<https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org/privacy-policy-of-christian-leaders-institute/>

Terms & Conditions

<https://www.christianleadersministries.org/terms-and-conditions-of-christian-leaders-ministries/>





Christian Leaders College  
[www.christianleaderscollege.org](http://www.christianleaderscollege.org)

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