INDIANA MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH OF GOD
DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY SERVICES

CANDIDATE READING LIST

The task of the Department of Ministry Services of Indiana Ministries is to help you discern God’s call upon your life; affirm your giftedness for ministry, and to help you prepare for a future in ministry. This list includes books in several areas that are crucial to your development as a Christian and a spiritual leader. Our intent is to help you be a spiritually mature person who is aware of basic theology, history, and doctrine of the Church of God. Our intent is to give you opportunities to learn about practical and ethical aspects of ministry. Ministers are life-long learners. Practicing spiritual disciplines, growing in one’s relationship with God and others, and stretching to learn new ways to minister are non-negotiable in spiritual leadership. The books on the list were chosen specifically to help you cultivate a life of commitment and faithfulness, a minister of high calling and character.

The books are divided into three categories: Required, Recommended and Strongly Suggested Resources. There are required books in each section. Sometimes you may choose from several books in a category. Recommended books are not required for ordination. These books are recommended for further reading and the building of your library. We encourage you to keep this list although you may not understand at present why you may need to be knowledgeable in some of these areas. These books can serve as resources for you in years to come.

Follow the directions given for each individual section. Your committee may make specific recommendations, especially if you invite them to do so.

Finding Books
Indiana Ministries is committed to helping provide some books for you. You may peruse some of the books at the State Office to help you become acquainted with authors and works. Most are available for purchase at very reasonable and discounted rates. Also public libraries will order books upon request and all the books you will find online; many available as used or in paperback form. Reading information and reviews online can help you choose books that best meet your needs. The best resources are: Amazon.com and Warner Press.

Reflection Papers
We require a 2-3 page reflection paper for each book that you read. Reflection papers differ from book reports or reviews. We are not asking for a report about the content of the book. Here are some guidelines for reflections. Choose to answer these type questions:

1. What did you learn that is helpful and/or meaningful to you?
2. What new insights did you glean?
3. What questions does the material raise for you? Answer for you?
4. What stretches you or causes you to deepen in your spiritual experience?
5. What did you strongly agree or disagree with and why?
Step 1:
The following reflection papers are due before your second interview will be granted or doctrinal statements will be discussed: Church of God Theology, Church of God History, Spiritual Formation (one from Group 1), and Contemporary Readings (1) and Clergy Ethics (1) – at total of 5 in this set.

Step 2:
These reflections are due before the next interview will be granted: Spiritual Formation (one from Group 2), Practice of Ministry, Spiritual Leadership and the Call, Church Leadership, Clergy Ethics (2) – a total of 5 in this set.

Step 3:
The following reflections are due before the completion of the process: Spiritual Formation (one from Group 3), Self-Care, Mission, Marriage/Relationships – a total of 4 in this set.

When you complete each reflection paper, present it to your coach and discuss your reflections. Your coach will write a summary report of your progress for the Ordination and License Committee.

I. Church of God Theology

**Required:**

**Recommended:**


II. Church of God History and Teachings

**Required: Choose one**


**Recommended:**

III. Church of God Contemporary Readings

**Required: Choose one**


IV. **Spiritual Formation (Choose one book from each group)**

**Group 1 – Choose one**


**Group 2 – Choose one**


**Group 3 – Choose one**


V. **The Practice of Ministry**
**Required:**


**Recommended:**


Lott, David B., ed. *Conflict Management in Congregations.* The Alban Institute, 2001. (Check resources at www.alban.org)


**VI. Spiritual Leadership and The Call to Ministry**

**Required: (Choose one)**


**Recommended:**


VII. Church Leadership

**Required:**
Shawchuck, Norman and Heuser, Roger. *Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself While Serving Others.* Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon, 1993

**Recommended:**


VIII. Clergy Ethics

**Group 1**

**Required:** (Choose one)


**Recommended:**


**Group 2**
**Required:** (Choose one)


**IX. Self-Care**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**X. Mission**

**Required:** (Choose one)


*For those preparing to be missionaries choose from this group only:*


**XI. Marriage/Relationships**

**Required:** (Choose one)


**STRONGLY SUGGESTED BOOKS**

We recommend all books by Church of God writers as listed in the current Credentialing Manual of the Church of God. In addition, we recommend the following books as you continue to build or expand your library.

**Spiritual Formation**


**Spiritual Leadership**


**Practice of Ministry**


**Professional and Sexual Ethics**
Blue probes the conscience of those who unknowingly practice spiritual abuse by contrasting Jesus’ empowering ministry to others with a Pharisaical exploitation of others in order to gain power.

Explaining why ministers may think sexual abuse does not happen in their churches, she defines abuse, explains destructive religious thinking that contributes to the problem, and offers suggestions for developing healthy sexuality.

Essays explaining the effects of ministerial misconduct on the congregation and offering much practical assistance in helping the congregation heal, including the work of the “after-pastor.”

Sometimes leaders use their spiritual authority to control and dominate others, attempting to meet their own need for importance, intimacy or spiritual gratification. The authors consider questions such as: What are the scriptures that can be misused to keep Christians under bondage? What are the abusive spiritual dynamics that can develop in a church? How can an abused Christian find rest and recovery?

McClintock believes prevention begins with healthy sex education for everyone in the congregation. She offers practical help in responding to reports of sexual abuse. She also explains risks to clergy and suggests policies for ethical conduct.

With many anecdotes of true stories, Miles urges ministers to educate themselves to respond to their parishioners who are victimized by violence.

Miles examines the problem of violence in families in the Christian community. Refusing to misuse scripture to justify such violence, he helps Christians and congregations know how to respond.

Miles points out that, since physical aggression occurs in one-third of teen dating relationships, we dare not assume that our church kids are immune. He urges ministers, parents, and youth leaders to help young people break away from and avoid abusive relationships.

When therapist Earl Wilson admitted his sexual addiction, his wife and a group of friends formed a “Spiritual Care Team” to hold him accountable, help him heal, and help to restore the persons and ministry harmed by his sin, ultimately writing this book as a model to help others.
* Al Miles, a graduate of Anderson School of Theology, is a Church of God minister who coordinates the hospital ministry department at The Queen’s Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii.