

THESIS GUIDELINES

(Three Year License)

The Evangelical Free Church of America

(Three-year License papers leading to either a Certificate of Ordination or a Certificate of Christian Ministry.)

The License Paper is to be at least 15 pages and no longer than 20 pages typed. The paper should be complete yet concise. Though spelling and grammar are not being evaluated, it is expected the candidate would present a thesis which would reflect excellence in both theology and language. For those of ethnic and language groups other than English, it would be well to have qualified individuals who are able to communicate in the respective languages on the councils. All papers should be translated into English. It would also be helpful if the candidates would present their papers in the order as outlined in this set of guidelines.

THE LICENSE PAPER MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Biographical sketch
 - a) The candidate's conversion and spouse's conversion.
 - b) The candidate's call to ministry.
 - c) The candidate's preparation for ministry.

2. The candidate must give a personal statement with Scripture references for each of the twelve doctrinal statements of The Evangelical Free Church of America. The Theological Outline should make up 60 percent of the paper. The statements on the twelve points should include views on the following in the appropriate sections of the paper:
 - a) The importance of inerrancy (Article I in the EFCA Statement of Faith). How does this impact your life and teaching?
 - b) The concept and Persons of the Trinity.
 - c) The two natures of Jesus (Article 3 in the Statement of Faith)
 - d) The Baptism, indwelling, gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.
 - e) Sign gifts – healing, tongues, prophecy (Article 4 in the Statement of Faith).
 - f) Explain Salvation and how you would lead an individual to Christ.
 - g) Define atonement, justification, sanctification, Gospel, etc. (Article 6 in the Statement of Faith)
 - h) Church government (Article 10 in the Statement of Faith).
 - i) Eschatology (Article 11 in the Statement of Faith).
 - (1) Define and affirm your personal position of premillennialism.
 - (2) Define the following and affirm your personal position on the tribulation, the rapture, and the return of Christ.
 - (3) Define imminency.
 - j) Eternal Judgment (Article 12 of the Statement of Faith).

3. The candidate should write on his views on each of the following current issues:
 - a) Spiritual warfare, demons, Satan;
 - b) Homosexuality;
 - c) Abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia;
 - d) Divorces and remarriage;
 - e) Social drinking;
 - f) The role of women in the church;
 - g) Worship styles you prefer in the church.

4. The candidate should make a statement regarding the following questions:

- a) Are you personally committed to the doctrinal statement of The Evangelical Free Church of America? If you have reservations, would you state them?
- b) Are you in harmony with the principles, purposes and policies of The Evangelical Free Church?
- c) Is it your intention and desire to work in cooperation with the EFCA and the district in which you serve or will serve?
- d) Are you willing to follow and adhere to the congregational processes at the local church, district and national conferences in seeking changes in the programs or policies of the EFCA?
- e) If you find you are in disagreement with the theology and policies of the EFCA would you be willing to surrender your credentials back to the EFCA?
- f) Is there anything in your life which would bring embarrassment or disrepute to the Pastoral Ministry?

5. The candidate should state his personal convictions and practices in the following areas:

- a) spiritual disciplines;
- b) stewardship, personal finances, debt;
- c) moral purity;
- d) social drinking;
- e) accountability;
- f) marriage and family priorities.

PREPARATION OF THE THESIS

- 1. Be concise. Substance counts, volume does not.
- 2. Be clear. Refine your paper to say what you mean.
- 3. Be scriptural. Substantiate points with passages. Be prepared to defend your positions in the paper.
- 4. Be certain to have a copy of the thesis for each council member plus one copy to be mailed to the Home Office of the EFCA.
- 5. Papers should be not less than 15 pages and not over 20 pages.