



Security with Liberty  
Established 1944

**American Evangelical Christian Churches, Inc.**

P.O. Box 47312 Indianapolis, IN 46247 U.S.A.

Telephone: (317) 788-9280 / Email: [aecoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:aecoffice@yahoo.com) / Website: [www.aeccministries.com](http://www.aeccministries.com)

Dear Fellow Servant of the Lord,

Warmest greetings to you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Thank you for your inquiry into the American Evangelical Christian Churches. The American Evangelical Christian Churches (AECC) is a Christian denomination founded in 1944 in Chicago, Illinois, with ministers and churches serving throughout the United States and many foreign countries. We have been called to serve those laboring in the front line ministry and to encourage you in your efforts to fulfill God's call upon your life in Christian service.

The AECC may be able to provide you with appropriate credentials and the opportunity for affiliation with others who share a like calling and who desire to fellowship with other Christian ministers and churches.

Application for Membership and references are required. You are asked to provide a primary pastoral recommendation from your Senior Pastor, a current AECC minister, or an established congregation. Your remaining references may include additional ministers, church elders, deacons, or other lay leaders. You may also include others who can attest to your Christian faith and practice. If you have any questions regarding your particular situation, please feel free to call and discuss them with our office personnel.

As of January 1, 2012, all new applicants must submit to a background investigation - the fee of which is to be borne by the applicant. The background investigation questionnaire will be sent to you after your application is received and temporary approval is given.

As of January 1, 2017, a new policy was instituted regarding licensed ministers (licensed after that date) who wish to seek ordination. It is further outlined on page two (2).

Federal (IRS) and State Agencies recognize our credentials. If you have any questions concerning the AECC or the application process, please feel free to contact me at (317) 788-9280 (Eastern Time zone). Thank you again for your interest in the American Evangelical Christian Churches. We pray we can be helpful and look forward to hearing from you.

Truly, yours in Christ Jesus,

Dr. Gordon N. Elliott  
President



## AECC MINISTERIAL LICENSING AND ORDINATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2012

Becoming a Licensed or Ordained Minister is a sacred trust and covenant made between the individual and the Lord, with the AECC given the authority and responsibility to oversee those who have answered and accepted the Lord's call upon their lives.

It is a responsibility to be entered into soberly and reverently – not for self, not for special status, not for a title – but to be the Lord's servant and be a servant to His people on Earth.

Therefore, the AECC has developed certain guidelines to help insure the integrity of the office of Minister and for continuity within the AECC.

Each position has its own requirements and will be discussed separately.

**Licensed Minister** (new or by transfer from another denomination):

Procedure:

1. The candidate is to fill out the Application for Membership form and mail it with the appropriate fee to their Regional Coordinator (see listing on page 4). The Application for Membership can be requested from the home office, from the Regional Coordinator, or it is available online at [www.aeccministries.com](http://www.aeccministries.com).
2. Three letters of reference are required. Each must be completed and mailed to your Regional Coordinator.
3. A background check will also be required with the results sent to the main office of the AECC. This background check is done through a private company with none of the fee coming to the AECC. The fee for this service is to be borne by the applicant and is non-refundable. You will be billed separately for this service.

Once all of the above have been received by the Regional Coordinator, they will either meet with you face to face or conduct a preliminary telephone interview. They will also contact each of your references. Upon the Regional Coordinators recommendation, the application packet will then be sent to the AECC office. A Certificate of Licensure and clergy card will be mailed to those who are approved. Please allow six weeks.

Although you may assist another Ordained Minister, AECC Licensed Ministers are not granted the authority to officiate at any marriage. Only Ordained Ministers are allowed to do this.

*If you are a new member and are seeking to be Ordained please note:* the AECC requires new members to hold the office of Licensed Minister for at least one full year prior to becoming an Ordained Minister.

Those transferring from another denomination may be accepted as Ordained. However, the same steps outlined above still apply.

**Ordained Minister** (new or by transfer from another denomination):

Procedure:

Those wishing to apply to become an Ordained Minister of the AECC:

1. If you are currently a Licensed Minister with the AECC and have fulfilled your obligation of at least one year of service, you may apply for Ordination status if your ministry position warrants it. Follow Steps 1 and 2 under Licensed Minister procedure.
2. If you are seeking transfer from another denomination, follow Steps 1, 2 and 3 under Licensed Minister procedure.

In either case, your paperwork must be in the hands of your Regional Coordinator at least six weeks prior to your impending installation. That will allow sufficient time for your application packet to be mailed to the home office where it will be reviewed and will provide sufficient time for the AECC to prepare materials (Ordination Certificate, clergy card, etc.) for those who are approved. Once accepted, you will be required to attend the next Regional Conference in your area for a service of installation.

Automatic acceptance is not guaranteed and the final decision is per the AECC Board of Directors.

The AECC requires that at least one member of the Board of Directors conduct the installation service – assisted by the Regional Coordinator and other AECC Ministers in attendance. Note: Regional Coordinators do not have the authority to License or Ordain on their own.

**The AECC Board of Directors has approved the following policy for AECC Licensed Ministers seeking Ordained Minister Status. This policy goes into effect January 1, 2017:**

Licensed Ministers (licensed after the effective date) who are seeking Ordination are expected to meet the following requirements:

An ordained minister credential is required to perform the following sacerdotal services of the local church. (Under IRS guidelines these services include: baptisms, weddings, communion, teaching, spiritual counseling, baby dedications, administration of church affairs, and regular conducting of worship services. Ordination is not required to do all of them but is required for a majority of them.) (Note: Even though State laws may vary, the AECC requires a person be ordained in order to officiate a wedding.)

The AECC prefers to ordain at their Biennial International Conference. However, an individual may be ordained at a Regional Conference provided there is one of the AECC Board members there to officiate. In either case, the following criteria for ordination must be followed:

1. A letter from the AECC licensed minister requesting ordination must be received. This is to be submitted in writing to the AECC Board of Directors at the AECC office.
2. The candidate for ordination must serve as a Licensed Minister for at least one (1) year before applying for ordination.
3. The Licensed Minister must satisfactorily complete two (2) AEBC courses prior to ordination. The first required course is "Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette". The second required course is your choice of one of the following: "Pastoral Ministry", "Church Administration", "Pastor to Pastor", "Pastors Practical Helps", or "Biblical Principles of Church and Personal Finance".
4. The AECC Board of Directors will instruct the Board Treasurer to evaluate the giving record of the licensed minister to see if they have supported the AECC financially beyond their annual renewal fee and if the AEBC course fees have been paid.
5. The Licensed Minister must have attended either one (1) Regional Conference or the Biennial International Conference during the time he/she was licensed.
6. A video conference with the AECC Board of Directors must also take place. This is for the Board to interview and evaluated if all requirements have been met before ordination can be conferred.

By majority consensus of the Board, the candidates request will either be approved or denied. The candidate will then be notified by mail of any action taken.

It is required that each and every AECC Licensed or Ordained Minister attend either their Regional Conference or the biennial AECC International Conference. If you are unable to do so, you must notify the home office as to the reason why.

This is done for several reasons.

The AECC has a responsibility to you. We are providing you with a ministerial covering, opportunities to help educate you and assist you in your ministry and to fellowship with other members so that you may share ideas and concerns with them and with us.

You also have a responsibility to the AECC. We want and need you to be an active part of the denomination, to strengthen it and foster its growth.

We want to walk together with you in ministry but it's a two-way street. Failure to either attend an annual regional or the biennial (every two years) international conference or notify the home office in writing may cause you to lose your credentials.

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

If living in the United States, please mail this form and the Application for Membership form, along with the nonrefundable application fee to the Regional Coordinator representing your area. Foreign applicants: please mail your application to the Director of Missions. Names and addresses are listed on page four of this form.

The nonrefundable membership application fee of **\$60.00 (USD)** should be sent in the form of a check or money order made payable to: American Evangelical Christian Churches. **DO NOT SEND CASH.** The membership fee is renewable each year based on the member's life and conduct, as well as maintaining a cooperative relationship with the ongoing ministry of the AECC.

**AECC REGIONAL COORDINATORS:**

**Region 1 - New England:** States included in this Region are: ME, NH, VT, MA, RI and CT.

The Regional Coordinator is: Rev. John D. King  
P.O. Box 218  
Rochester, MA 02770  
Email: jdking58@hotmail.com

**Region 2 - North East:** States included in this Region are: NY, NJ and PA.

The Regional Coordinator is: Rev. Jesse Bingaman  
600 Chestnut St.  
Mifflinburg, PA 17844  
Email: pastorbingy@outlook.com

**Region 3 - Mid Atlantic:** States included in this Region are: MD, DE, WV, VA, and NC.

The Regional Coordinator is: Rev. Robert Hahn  
1251 Hinton Dr.  
Huntingtown, MD 20639  
Email: pastorhahn@chesapeakechurch.org

**Region 4 - Central:** States included in this Region are: MI, IN, OH, KY and TN.

The Regional Coordinator is: Dr. Lowell P. Ford  
1449 Residence Dr.  
Newark, OH 43055  
Email: lowellford@roadrunner.com

**Region 5 - South East:** States included in this Region are: SC, GA, AL, MS and FL.

The Regional Coordinator is: Rev. Brett Smith  
155 Custard Court, Lot 1  
Pahokee, FL 33476  
Email: flkidz4christ@yahoo.com

**Region 6 - Central West:** States included in this Region are: WI, IL, MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE and KS.

The Regional Coordinator is: Dr. Timothy Todd  
2028 Spring Street  
Quincy, IL 62301  
Email: luckytommyluke@yahoo.com

**Region 7 - South West:** States included in this Region are: AR, LA, OK, TX, CO and NM.

The Regional Coordinator is: Dr. James Blankenship  
Bib. Dir. – JBU  
2000 W. University Street  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761  
jblankenship@jbu.edu

**Region 8 - North West:** States included in this Region are: MT, WY, ID, WA and OR.

The Regional Coordinator is: Rev. Forrest M. Miller  
P.O. Box 472  
Garfield, WA 99130  
Email: kangwhado@rocketmail.com

**Region 9 - West:** States included in this Region are: UT, AZ, NV and CA.

The Regional Coordinator is: Rev. Timothy Alford  
P.O. Box 4322  
Crestline, CA 92325  
Email: justtimalford@aol.com

**AECC DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS:**

Dr. Douglas Schlemmer  
P.O. Box 409  
Twin Peaks, CA 92391  
Email: tamraanddoug@yahoo.com



## **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**Please type or print legibly and fill in completely**  
(Use additional paper as needed)

**Recent  
Photograph  
Required**

**(One taken within the last  
two years)**

**Head and shoulders  
Cut to fit this space**

**I am making application for membership and to receive the following credential**  
(Please check one)

**LICENSED MINISTER** – Those with a definite call to ministry: Preaching, evangelists, teachers, Chaplains, Christian counselors, etc.

**ORDAINED MINISTER** – Those with ministry experience seeking to serve a local congregation as senior/associate pastor requiring the authority to officiate at weddings.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

2. City \_\_\_\_\_ 4. State \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Zip \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Country \_\_\_\_\_

7. Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ 8. (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Email \_\_\_\_\_

10. Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ 11.  Male  Female

12. Marital Status: Single  Married

13. Name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_

14. When and where were you baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What is the name and address of your home church? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Who is the Senior Pastor there? \_\_\_\_\_

17. If you serve on staff at your church, please indicate the average Sunday morning attendance. \_\_\_\_\_

18. What is your spiritual calling? Pastor  Chaplain  Teacher  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_



19. If you currently serve in Christian service, please list your primary area(s) of ministry. \_\_\_\_\_

20. Describe your conversion experience, call to ministry and church background (**Please attach a separate statement**).

21. What percentage of your time do you devote to your calling? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Do you have another occupation? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_ Hours per week? \_\_\_\_\_

23. With what religious organization are you currently affiliated? \_\_\_\_\_

24. With what other religious bodies have you been identified with and in what relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

25. If previously ordained: month\_\_\_\_\_, day\_\_\_\_\_, year\_\_\_\_\_. By whom (church body or denomination) \_\_\_\_\_

26. Have you considered the **AECC Articles of Faith** and are you in agreement with them? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

27. Have you considered the **AECC Code of Ministerial Ethics** and do you agree to abide by them? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

28. Have you read the requirements for **AECC General Membership** and do you qualify for membership by these standards? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

29. Do you have a criminal record or charges pending against you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. If yes, please explain each incident indicating that the matter is resolved and under the blood of Christ and that restitution have been made where Biblically appropriate and possible (use additional pages). An additional fee will be charged to cover the cost of a criminal background check for all candidates.

30. Do you agree to live a Biblically moral lifestyle, one worthy of the Christian ministry profession? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

31. List any formal education you may have received and check the appropriate one(s):

High School \_\_\_\_\_ College or Bible School \_\_\_\_\_ Seminary \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please send copies of all diplomas, certificates, degrees received)

32. What degrees do you hold and from what schools? \_\_\_\_\_

33. List below the name, address, and phone number of three personal references who are acquainted with your ministry gifts and history of service including on line #1 your Pastor, and AECC Minister, or another Pastor of an established ministry. Include area codes with your phone numbers. References may include ministers, elders, deacons, and other Christians.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

34. Financial Plan. All members are required to pay their application fee and annual renewal fee. However, since these fees do not cover all of our ministry costs, we ask that you prayerfully consider and give on a monthly or quarterly basis that offering you believe the Lord would have you give. The American Evangelical Christian Churches thanks you for your faithfulness in this matter.



**BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL PROFILE**

Please answer, giving appropriate scriptural references (use additional pages as needed).

**The American Evangelical Christian Churches is neither Fundamental nor Pentecostal in doctrine. The questions offered are voluntary in nature. The applicant will not be received, nor denied into ministry, based *only* on your answer to these questions.**

35 .Did the fall of man result from voluntary or involuntary transgression?\_\_\_\_\_

36. Are modern day revelations, visions and prophetic utterances EQUAL IN AUTHORITY with the Bible? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

37 .Select six of the following which declares the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and check accordingly.

\_\_\_\_ His virgin birth

\_\_\_\_ His sinless life

\_\_\_\_ His miracles

\_\_\_\_ His driving the money changes from the temple

\_\_\_\_ His confounding lawyers at age 12

\_\_\_\_ His exaltation to the right hand of God

\_\_\_\_ His temptation in the wilderness

\_\_\_\_ His bodily resurrection from The dead

\_\_\_\_ The price of His betrayal

\_\_\_\_ His substitutional work on the cross

38. Define "spiritual death".\_\_\_\_\_

39. What are the conditions of salvation?\_\_\_\_\_

40. What is the inward evidence of salvation?\_\_\_\_\_

41. What is the outward evidence of salvation?\_\_\_\_\_

42. What are the elements of Holy Communion and what is their meaning?\_\_\_\_\_



43. How do you baptize and what is the meaning of water baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

44. Is healing provided for in the atonement? \_\_\_\_\_

45. Define tithing. \_\_\_\_\_

46. Do you believe it is God's will that each of us tithe? \_\_\_\_\_

47. What is the "blessed hope" spoken of in Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_

This agreement is for your protection and the protection of the other members of the AECC. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office and talk to one of our staff people about it. We are here to help you.

#### AGREEMENT

I acknowledge and affirm that the information provided by me in this application, including all attachments and exhibits, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I am granted general membership or receive credentials of any kind from the American Evangelical Christian Churches, my membership and any credentials may be withdrawn or terminated by AECC, at any time and without notice, if any information is found to be false or misleading. I hereby authorize AECC and its agents to complete investigation of my background, character, reputation and fitness, before granting me general membership in AECC or affording me any credentials or certification.

This application shall constitute authority to all of my past and present employers, to all educational institutions I have attended, to all religious institutions and other organizations to which I have been associated, to all government entities (including criminal records check), and to any other person or entity having information about me, to fully disclose such information to AECC. Such information includes, but shall not be limited to, personnel files and records, grades and grade point averages and transcripts, earned degrees, professional licenses, attendance and discipline records, complaints, suspensions, license revocations or fines, and such other oral and written information which, in the exclusive discretion of AECC, may be relevant to determining my suitability for general membership and credentials of any kind.

I hereby release any such employer, educational or religious institution, government entity, and other person or entity, and their representatives and agents, from any claim or liability of any kind for complying with such information requests of AECC. I also hereby release the American Evangelical Christian Churches and its representatives and agents from any claim or liability of any kind in ducting such investigation.

I authorize the making and retention of photocopies or facsimiles of all such information, and request that photocopies or facsimile copies be accepted on the same basis as original documents.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_







**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

To: President of the American Evangelical Christian Churches Board of Directors

I have reviewed the enclosed application and have interviewed the applicant and his/her references. I hereby  
 Recommend approval     Do not recommend approval

If not recommending applicant, please give reason(s) why:

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Regional Coordinator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant to be given credentials as:  
 Licensed Minister     Ordained Minister  
on basis of  Initial Action     Transfer

Approved     Not Approved

AECC President Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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## **REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **Reference #1**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

References Name: \_\_\_\_\_

References Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*The following person, for ministerial credentials and membership with the American Evangelical Christian Churches, has given your name to us as a reference concerning an application. Please respond as best as you can to all of the questions listed below. Upon completion, please return questionnaire to the address listed below.*

Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you believe that God has placed a call upon their life? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In your opinion, is the applicant a living testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ? In what way(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you attend the same church as the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

6. If known by you, what is the pastor's opinion of the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you believe that the applicant is a Godly leader? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, in what ways?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please feel free to add any other comments you might feel important.*

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

**Please complete and mail to the appropriate Regional Coordinator – listed on page four.**

**The American Evangelical Christian Churches would like to thank you for your help in considering this applicant. Please be assured that your responses will be kept in strictest confidence.**



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## **REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **Reference #2**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

References Name: \_\_\_\_\_

References Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*The following person, for ministerial credentials and membership with the American Evangelical Christian Churches, has given your name to us as a reference concerning an application. Please respond as best as you can to all of the questions listed below. Upon completion, please return questionnaire to the address listed above.*

Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you believe that God has placed a call upon their life? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

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

4. In your opinion, is the applicant a living testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ? In what way(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you attend the same church as the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

6. If known by you, what is the pastor's opinion of the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you believe that the applicant is a Godly leader? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, in what ways?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please feel free to add any other comments you might feel important.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

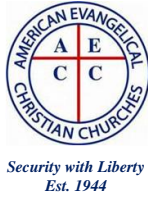
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**Please complete and mail to the appropriate Regional Coordinator – listed on page four.**

**The American Evangelical Christian Churches would like to thank you for your help in considering this applicant. Please be assured that your responses will be kept in strictest confidence.**



**REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**Reference #3**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

References Name: \_\_\_\_\_

References Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*The following person, for ministerial credentials and membership with the American Evangelical Christian Churches, has given your name to us as a reference concerning an application. Please respond as best as you can to all of the questions listed below. Upon completion, please return questionnaire to the address listed above.*

Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you believe that God has placed a call upon their life? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In your opinion, is the applicant a living testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ? In what way(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you attend the same church as the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

6. If known by you, what is the pastor's opinion of the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you believe that the applicant is a Godly leader? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, in what ways?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please feel free to add any other comments you might feel important.*

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**Please complete and mail to the appropriate Regional Coordinator – listed on page four.**

**The American Evangelical Christian Churches would like to thank you for your help in considering this applicant. Please be assured that your responses will be kept in strictest confidence.**