

# CONTINUING EDUCATION GUIDE

TWENTY CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS REQUIRED YEARLY\*

\*Continuing education hours should not be confused with credit hours required in college or seminary courses. For continuing education, an equitable system usually reflects a literal hour per credit equivalency. For instance, attending a one-hour seminar would earn the minister one continuing education credit (CEC). In contrast, if one takes a three credit-hour college course towards a degree program, they usually attend three classes a week for an entire semester to earn those three credit hours. Continuing education credits are different than college or seminary credit hours. Earning the suggested number of credits should be manageable and enjoyable.

## Qualifying Continuing Education Credits (CECs) and Guidelines for Attaining Credits



### Continuing Education Credit Symbol

Qualifying events or self-study will utilize the leadership development core value symbol. Qualifying events will show the number of credit hours earned for each continuing education class or event.

## State Sponsored Leadership Development Events & Courses

States and regions will provide numerous opportunities throughout the year to earn CECs. State-sponsored training events, regional leadership development courses, book studies, training events, and retreats are great opportunities to earn continuing education credits.

## International Office/North America Sponsored Events

The NRS bishop's office will work hand in hand with the International Offices and North America general presbyter's office in leadership development. Any event sponsored by these offices will automatically qualify, and CECs will be assigned to these events. Completing the Foundations: Minister's Development Program will earn CECs.

## Partnerships with other States and Regions

NRS bishops' offices are encouraged to cross-pollinate, working together to offer learning opportunities. Ideally, a course, workshop, or training opportunity provided in one nation, region, or state would be accepted by another area to fulfill CEC requirements.

## State-Sponsored Book Studies

The NRS Leadership Development Department may offer book studies to earn CECs. A specific book could be introduced, and the study could be interactive. The participant gains from reading the book and learning from the discussion groups by sharing what was learned from the material. Because each book is different and requires various levels of involvement, the range of credits earned through the book studies will be from two to four CECs.

## **Online Courses, Seminars, Webinars, and Discussion Groups**

The NRS Leadership Development Departments may offer ways to earn CECs that will be delivered electronically. Preregistration will be required.

## **District-Sponsored Training Events or Courses**

Districts within an NRS (with several districts coming together) are encouraged to sponsor training events, seminars, and classes for the benefit of leaders, ministers, and pastors. These can qualify for CECs if the sponsoring leadership contacts the appropriate NRS Leadership Development Department in advance so the course or event can go through the pre-approval process. The NRS Leadership Development team will partner to promote and facilitate the event when requested.

## **Local Church Training Partnerships**

Local churches may also sponsor leadership development courses, seminars, and training events. These may also qualify for CECs with proper advance consultation with the NRS bishop's office and/or NRS Leadership Development Department pre-approval. Local churches are encouraged to make their events available to churches in their areas. These partnerships would provide shared training opportunities and needed fellowship among churches. It is incredible what can be accomplished when churches work together.

## **Conferences, Seminars, and Training Sessions**

Great sources for development exist, and they are not exclusive to the Church of God of Prophecy. Just as we welcome those outside our organization to attend COGOP events, ministers can take advantage of training events outside the organization. To earn credit from outside events and conferences, please contact the NRS Leadership Development Department for pre-approval to confirm credits for attending and sharing what was learned.

## **University and Seminary Courses**

Those pursuing studies with universities or seminaries will receive continuing education credits. The time requirement is much more strenuous for qualifying university or seminary courses. Each college credit hour will earn three times the course credit hour designation. For instance, taking a 3-hour college or seminary course will earn 9 CECs.

## **Miscellaneous Development and Training Opportunities**

While this list of qualifying courses and sources is extensive, it is not exhaustive. Other training and development opportunities may be available for ministers that can qualify for CECs. The key is connecting with the NRS Leadership Development Department for CEC pre-approval. The goal is the development of a culture of continuous learning among the Church of God of Prophecy ministers.

## **Pre-Approval CEC Form and Yearly CEC Report Form**

Pre-approval for CECs can be achieved by filling out the form provided. Continuing Education Credits will follow the calendar year, and CECs earned will be reported on the minister's monthly report. Ministers should keep personal records of all training events and courses attended.