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Researched and edited for accuracy by trained team members at GetOrdained™ on September 11, 2022 Becoming ordained in Florida is far simpler than you might believe! The process to be a minister was once a hard, time-intensive undertaking (not to mention the cost of something like seminary school). The clear problem: only a select few could achieve the title of “minister.” Get Ordained™ is dedicated to removing these systemic barriers to participation, allowing anyone who feels so-called to become certified as a minister. As part of this commitment, we’ve pioneered a free online ordination model that takes just a few minutes to complete. The Sunshine State is one of the most special places on earth, not least because of all the wonderful Floridians who call it home. We're beaming with pride that so many of the great folks who call Florida home have chosen to become ministers of our organization. In this guide, we'll walk through how the online ordination process works, explain the legal considerations you should know about, and, of course, show you how to get ordained in Florida! 1. How Do You Become a Minister in Florida? "Getting your minister credentials with Get Ordained™ starts by filling out the ordination application found on our website. It’s a quick and easy form that will ask for just a few basic details in order to create your account. After you tap the submit button, your ordination will be processed and you will be able to view a digital version of your ordination certificate, supplied by the Universal Life Church Ministries. That’s it! To begin, click the link below! Begin Your Ordination Why do we provide ordination for free? Because our view is that each individual should have the opportunity to chart their own journey in the universe. Faith is by its very nature a personal endeavor, and everyone walks their own path depending on what they believe and how they choose to exercise those beliefs. The ability to make those choices for oneself – not according to arbitrary rules set by a faraway leadership group – is precious. 2. How Can You Use Your Ordination in Florida? After becoming ordained, you’ll be granted complete freedom to decide how to take advantage of your status as a minister. All across the state, from the Keys to the panhandle, you can put your ordination to use in a variety of exciting ways in Florida. As an ordained minister with Get Ordained™, you can: Perform legal weddings Lead baptisms and christenings Solemnize funerals Officiate over many other types of ceremonies There are some Get Ordained™ ministers in Florida that have even proceeded to start their own churches and ministries! You can read more about the various options available by visiting our Minister Training Center. 3. What Does Ordination in Florida Require? "After thinking about what activities you plan to pursue, you'll want to make sure you have all the documents and supplies necessary to perform your duties! For our ministers in Florida, these have consistently been the most-recommended items: No matter how you choose to utilize your new ordination, we’re ready to support you with all the tools and knowledge you need to pursue your goals! 4. What Does Being Ordained Mean? Ordination is an old religious rite that has been carried out by many different churches – each in their own ways – throughout human history. In a general sense, ordination is the consecration of an individual as a member of the clergy, an honor typically bestowed by church leadership. Each denomination has developed its own methods and processes for this tradition, and these vary widely. Simply put, granting ordination distinguishes a person as having the authority to perform duties of the clergy, like officiating over religious ceremonies. Traditionally, this path to getting ordained wasn't an easy one. It typically demanded years of dedication and study, and even then, candidates for ordination had to win the approval of their respective faith leaders. We view these historic paths to ordination as too restrictive and too elitist. That’s why we’ve knocked down the blockades to ordination with our open, online model, making it available to anyone who seeks it. We provide online ordination in Florida because we recognize that Floridians want the freedom to follow their faith how they wish – which might mean becoming ordained! Ordination through Get Ordained™ includes the same powers and rights that other types of clergy members benefit from. Members are therefore permitted to perform the same activities and duties carried out by ministers of other denominations and faith communities. 5. How to Become Ordained to Officiate a Wedding in Florida Folks become ordained as ministers for all sorts of reasons and, once they are ordained, become empowered to perform all kinds of ceremonies. One thing that many new ministers particularly look forward to is the opportunity to perform a wedding ceremony. As a matter of fact, Get Ordained™ ministers have successfully officiated thousands of weddings in Florida! A traditional church ceremony in Orlando can be wonderful, but some couples want to mix it up and have a friend or family member officiate a nondenominational Spanish wedding ceremony in Miami. Having that type of flexibility when performing a wedding is a game-changer. If officiating a wedding is in your future, it’s vital to know the ins and outs of wedding laws in the area where you plan to officiate. The rules can vary from place to place, so you'll want to read up on the specific requirements for your state and county. To learn more about the process looks like in your area, please check out our guide to performing a wedding in Florida. Are ULC Ordinations Valid in Florida? The Universal Life Church Ministries is a recognized religious organization in good standing in Florida, and ordinations supplied by the ULCM via Get Ordained™ are fully valid there. In accordance with the laws of Florida, ministers ordained online enjoy the ability to perform the same duties as any other members of the clergy, which includes officiating over official wedding ceremonies. Our innovative use of the internet may make us look different from other organizations, but the ordinations provided by GetOrdained are as legally valid as those from any other church. We believe, and the law says, that you have the right to practice your faith in Florida how you want, including as a minister of the ULC! Time requirements associated with becoming an ordained minister are determined by the religious organization performing the ordination. At GetOrdained we choose to provide instant online ordination per our belief that all people in Florida who feel called toward ordination should have easy access to that special role. We believe that anyone in Florida who feels called to ordination should have access to it, so we make it free! There is no cost associated with online ordination with GetOrdained. Depending on your plans, you may be required by the government in your area to provide proof of ordination, which we offer for a small fee. At GetOrdained we require that a person be at least 18 years of age in order to apply for online ordination. It’s also important to keep in mind that if you are planning on performing a legal ceremony like a wedding, your town or county in Florida may have a separate age requirement for officiants - be sure to check! In Florida, the process of becoming an ordained minister is governed by state law, which holds great importance when it comes to officiating weddings. According to Florida Statutes Section 741.07, individuals who are ordained or licensed ministers of the gospel, priests, or other ecclesiastical officers are authorized to solemnize marriages. This includes those who have been ordained through reputable online ordination programs. Therefore, you don’t need to register with any government office as a wedding officiant.The only requirement is to complete the marriage license in the presence of the couple and any required witnesses. Additionally, you’ll have the honor of reading the Declaration of Intent to the couple, ensuring their voluntary entrance into the sacred bond of marriage. Finally, within a specified timeframe, typically 10 days after the ceremony, the completed marriage license should be returned to the county clerk’s office.While Florida doesn’t impose specific state-mandated criteria for ordination, it’s important to note that individual religious organizations and denominations may have their own requirements. For those seeking ordination through CLI and CLA, the journey entails:a. Education and Training: Enroll in the Christian Leaders Institute and complete the required courses and training modules, which will provide you with a solid foundation in ministry. Rest assured, CLI offers flexible online programs accommodating your unique schedule and preferences.b. Ordination Process: After completing your education and training, you can apply for ordination through the Christian Leaders Alliance. This process may involve providing a local endorsement and completing a minister profile, reflecting your dedication to the sacred calling of ministry.c. Wedding Officiant Authorization: Once ordained through CLA, you’ll have legal authority to perform weddings in Florida. To ensure a smooth process, it’s advisable to consult with the county clerk’s office in the county where the ceremony will take place. They can provide any additional local requirements or registration procedures.See the Christian Leaders Alliance Florida Ordination Site The Christian Leaders Institute (CLI):We are thrilled to introduce the Christian Leaders Institute, a warm and welcoming online educational platform that provides free ministry and ordination training programs. Our mission is to make theological education accessible to individuals from all backgrounds, empowering them to deepen their understanding of Christianity and prepare for various ministry roles. Our comprehensive courses cover a wide range of subjects, including biblical studies, theology, church history, leadership, and pastoral care.The Christian Leaders Alliance (CLA):Through our partnership with the Christian Leaders Alliance, we offer an ordination program for individuals who have completed CLI’s training and courses. The Christian Leaders Alliance has been empowering ministers since 2014 and has ordained thousands of individuals. By joining CLA, you will receive formal recognition and authorization as an ordained minister, allowing you to perform weddings and other religious ceremonies in Florida, in accordance with state law. How is the Christian Leaders Institute funded? Christian Leaders Institute is funded through a “Give It Forward” Approach. Click here to read more.Can I register my church or religious society under the banner of Christian Leaders Alliance? Yes. Locally registered Soul Centers are being register all over the world. Click here to read more.Can I receive a College degree after I enroll at Christian Leaders Institute? At Christian Leaders Institute, our college degrees are offered through our Leadership Excellence School. We provide access to both Associate Degrees and Bachelor Degrees. To begin our degree program, you must first enroll as a student in our School of Christian Development. Every student starts by creating a study account at the Christian Development school. Once you complete the “Getting Started” class, you can proceed to enroll in our Leadership Excellence School, where our degree programs are hosted.. Click here to set up you account. This degree is ideal for those who desire to pursue their Master’s Degree with one of our partner Seminaries like North Point Bible College and Seminary, Kairos University, Calvin, Western, Northern, and more.Christian Leaders Institute is your access or gateway many professional ministry opportunity. Link to: Minister Ordination Program Minister Ordination Program Link to: Bible School Classes Bible School Classes Scroll to top Every Christian disciple has a ministry, and all who are called to ministry should be accountable. Ministerial credentialing, however, relates to particular vocational calls and carries with it both special recognition and accountability. Credentials are covenantal in nature; to accept such credentials is to become accountable to the established credentialing body of the appropriate area assembly. While most ministries reserved for the laity of the church do not require formal recognition as a means of establishing accountability, ministries practiced by clergy persons usually do. Credentialing in the Church of God takes the forms of licensing and ordination. Each requires that certain qualifications be met. It is the responsibility of the appropriate credentialing body to determine whether or not a minister is qualified for credentialing and, if so, when and at which of the levels. Evidence of certain spiritual prerequisites is required by a credentialing committee in order for a prospective ministerial candidate to initiate pursuit of appropriate credentials. This evidence includes: 1. Salvation—as shown in a holy lifestyle; 2. Evidence of the call of God—a divine appointment to Christian ministry; 3. A demonstrated need for vocational credentials; 4. Fellowship and involvement in a local congregation of the Church of God; 5. Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Because there are varieties of ministry, there are varieties of credentialing. Those who are licensed or ordained receive such credentialing because they have been “set apart” for a ministry that requires a more extensive involvement and a special gifting by the Holy Spirit. Credentialing at whatever level signifies a covenant relationship between the minister and the credentialing body, the minister and ministerial peers, the minister and the church at large, the minister and the local church being served, and the minister and God. Assuring the integrity of each of these covenant relationships rests on patterns of mutual accountability. Who may be credentialed? The following identifies the ministerial categories of those vocational ministers who may be credentialed through licensing and/or ordination. Pastors - Persons who pastor recognized Church of God congregations may be properly considered for ordination, provided they have made a long-term vocational commitment to Christian ministry with the Church of God and otherwise meet the qualifications for ordination listed in the Credentials Manual. Staff Associates - Career staff associates (e.g., those engaged in music and worship ministry, youth ministry, Christian education ministry) who have made long-term vocational commitments to congregational Christian ministry and who have achieved professional competence may be appropriately considered for ordination. In such instances, steps toward ordination should be no different from those prescribed for pastors. Organizational Staff - Professional persons who have made a long-term vocational commitment to Christian ministry and who serve as evangelists or in administrative, educational, para-church, or institutional capacities that support the work of a local congregation may be appropriately considered for ordination. In such instances, steps toward ordination should be no different from those prescribed for pastors. Chaplains - Persons who represent the church at large as military or institutional chaplains often find that ordination is a prerequisite for employment and placement. Those who have made long-term vocational commitments to these or similar callings may be appropriately considered for ordination. In such instances, steps toward ordination should be no different from those prescribed for pastors. Christian Counselors - Professional counselors who have made a long-term vocational commitment to Christian ministry, and who have become properly educated for service as Christian counselors, may be appropriately considered for ordination. In such instances, steps toward ordination should be no different from those prescribed for pastors. Missionaries - Persons may be considered for ordination if they represent the church at large as formally appointed missionaries through Church of God Ministries and have a long-term vocational commitment to Christian ministry. In such instances, steps toward ordination should be no different from those prescribed for pastors. Church Planters - Must be actively involved in planting a church affiliated with Church of God Ministries (Anderson, IN). WHO IS INVOLVED? Florida Church of God Ministries’ Credentialing Committee is the credentialing and arm and covering of pastors and churches in Florida associated with Church of God Ministries (Anderson, IN).   Leadership Focus is an online ministry development tool, designed to equip and strengthen leaders in the Church of God through relational training with a missional perspective. This credentialing process is designed to last three years, broken into 6 month courses, each focusing on a core area of ministry and leadership development: Commencement, Competencies, Character, Confessions, Connectivity and Celebrations. There is also a one-time, short-term enrollment period. Each module will be hosted by a coach who will lead you through guided online web training calls. You will be expected to participate in each web meeting along with fulfilling each module’s unique requirements. COST of Leadership Focus each course is billed to you prior to the beginning of the courses. Registration with Florida Ministries: No Cost Enrollment: $25 Course 1: $275 Courses 2-6: $150 each REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT PERIODS Registration with Enrollment Course Course 1-6 Tracks Florida Ministries with Leadership Focus Start Dates July 1 - November 30 October 1 - January 1 March 1 (Spring) December 1 - June 30 June 1 - August 1 September 1 (Fall) REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS Complete CREDENTIALS REGISTRATION FORM below Once approved and contacted by Florida Ministries, register with LEADERSHIP FOCUS to learn more about Leadership Focus, visit the Church of God Ministries site. Once registration with Leadership Focus is complete you will be assigned to ENROLLMENT COURSE to pay your fee and begin your assignments. In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask you enter in the text you see in the image below so we can confirm your identity as a human. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

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The rules can vary from place to place, so you'll want to read up on the specific requirements for your state and county. To learn more about the process looks like in your area, please check out our guide to performing a wedding in Florida. Are ULC Ordinations Valid in Florida? The Universal Life Church Ministries is a recognized religious organization in good standing in Florida, and ordinations supplied by the ULCM via Get Ordained™ are fully valid there. In accordance with the laws of Florida, ministers ordained online enjoy the ability to perform the same duties as any other members of the clergy, which includes officiating over official wedding ceremonies. Our innovative use of the internet may make us look different from other organizations, but the ordinations provided by GetOrdained are as legally valid as those from any other church. We believe, and the law says, that you have the right to practice your faith in Florida how you want, including as a minister of the ULC! Time requirements associated with becoming an ordained minister are determined by the religious organization performing the ordination. At GetOrdained we choose to provide instant online ordination per our belief that all people in Florida who feel called toward ordination should have easy access to that special role. We believe that anyone in Florida who feels called to ordination should have access to it, so we make it free! There is no cost associated with online ordination with GetOrdained. Depending on your plans, you may be required by the government in your area to provide proof of ordination, which we offer for a small fee. At GetOrdained we require that a person be at least 18 years of age in order to apply for online ordination. It’s also important to keep in mind that if you are planning on performing a legal ceremony like a wedding, your town or county in Florida may have a separate age requirement for officiants - be sure to check! Last Updated: October 11th, 2023 Who Can Officiate Weddings in Florida? The Florida Marriage Laws specify who can legally perform marriage in the State. The legal term for the act of conducting a wedding ceremony is called "Solemnization of Marriage". The people with the authority to perform this act are religious and government officials. For most Americans, getting ordained is the easiest way to gain the legal right to solemnize weddings. According to the Florida Statutes § 741.07   - This is an Excerpt. Read The Full Statute on Our Florida Marriage Laws - AMM Ordination Guarantee As an online ordained minister of American Marriage Ministries, you will be joining a network of over 1,485,012 ministers that have officiated hundreds-of-thousands of weddings all across the country. As an AMM minister, you are legally empowered under the protections of the Florida Statutes § 741.07 to officiate wedding ceremonies. We understand that officiating a wedding is a huge honor and a serious responsibility. Our job is to guide you through this process from both the legal and ceremonial dimensions. Our mission is to empower you not just to perform marriage, but to do so with confidence and skill. You will be the latest in over 64,829 AMM ministers in Florida! BEGIN ORDINATION 13 YEARS ORDAINING AND COUNTING American Marriage Ministries has been ordaining people just like you for over a decade. Our officiant training resources are the best, both online and in print. We make ordination easy so that you can focus on conducting an awesome wedding ceremony. And that's not just us saying it. AMM is an inclusive institution. We welcome people of all backgrounds. It is not important to us if you are black or white, religious or non-religious, rich or poor, gay or straight. What is important is that you have a sincere desire to officiate weddings for people you care about. We support your right to officiate weddings that reflect your values, the couple's, and your community's. Florida Marriage Officiant License As an online ordained minister you are one step closer to performing marriage in Florida. In addition to our free online ordination, we provide all the officiant training materials you need to officiate weddings with confidence. Whether you will be officiating weddings in Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, or even White Springs, , AMM has everything you need to create an amazing ceremony. Your next step is to observe any officiant registration required by the Florida Government. Click on the button below to learn more. FLORIDA OFFICIANT GOVERNMENT REGISTRATION How To Become a Wedding Officiant in Florida If the process of planning, scripting, and performing a wedding is daunting, then you need our Wedding Helper suite of tools. We have distilled years of experience into an easy-to-use platform with training materials, quizzes, a personalized ceremony script generator, and tips to prepare you for performing marriage, all accessible through your minister profile. That's only the beginning. After the wedding, you can share your wedding on the AMM Wedding Wall with our nationwide network of ministers. About American Marriage Ministries We are American Marriage Ministries, an IRS Certified 501c3 Non-Profit Church with the mission to empower people of all backgrounds to officiate weddings. American Marriage Ministries was founded on July 4th of 2009 in Washington State. In that time we have ordained over 1,485,012 ministers all across the United States. To join our nationwide community of AMM ministers, you simply need to agree to our three simple tenets: All people, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation, have the right to marry. It is the right of every couple to choose who will solemnize their marriage. All people have the right to solemnize marriage. How you officiate weddings is up to you, the couple, and the members of your community. You will be one of over 64,829 AMM ministers in Florida who have realized their right to perform marriage. ORDER NOW You can also help by ordering your official ministry credentials from our store. Part of the proceeds goes to our charitable activities, which supports other non-profit charities such as Peace Players International and the Special Olympics. When you purchase a package from us, you get your official ordination certificate and you get to help support a positive cause! To learn more about American Marriage Ministries, check out our About Us page. If you have further questions, feel free to visit our FAQ or simply contact us. We are excited to announce the launch of the new UPCI ministerial license application process. This new process will affect all first-time applicants, as well as all upgrades, and reinstatements. As pastor, you will now initiate a digital application for all applicants. Below, you will find two links. The first link is a “how to” video published by UPCI HQ. The second link is to the UPCI HQ new website to begin the application process. We encourage you to take the time to watch the instructional video in its entirety. This video does a great job of explaining the entire process from beginning, to end. Instructional Video: Digital Ministerial Application Tutorial (for Applicants and Pastors) License Application Website: Should you have any question on this process, please don’t hesitate to contact the District Office at admin@flupci.org, or 352-239-3505. 741.07 Persons authorized to solemnize matrimony (1)All regularly ordained ministers of the gospel or elders in communion with some church, or other ordained clergy, and all judicial officers, including retired judicial officers, clerks of the circuit courts, and notaries public of this state may solemnize the rights of matrimonial contract, under the regulations prescribed by law. Nothing in this section shall make invalid a marriage which was solemnized by any member of the clergy, or as otherwise provided by law prior to July 1, 1978.(2)Any marriage which may be had and solemnized among the people called "Quakers," or "Friends," in the manner and form used or practiced in their societies, according to their rites and ceremonies, shall be good and valid in law; and wherever the words "minister" and "elder" are used in this chapter, they shall be held to include all of the persons connected with the Society of Friends, or Quakers, who perform or have charge of the marriage ceremony according to their rites and ceremonies. Title XLIII: Domestic Relations - Chapter 741: Marriage; Domestic Violence History.?s. 1, Nov. 2, 1829; s. 2, ch. 1127, 1861; RS 2056; GS 2575; RGS 3934; CGL 5853; s. 1, ch. 28104, 1953; s. 1, ch. 74-372; s. 1, ch. 78-15; s. 34, ch. 95-401. Researched and updated by the ordination experts at the Universal Life Church on September 11, 2022 Getting ordained in Florida has never been simpler! The title of “minister” was once allowed only for those with the resources to pursue it through time-consuming, costly (and sometimes discriminatory) avenues. But those days are no more! The Universal Life Church Ministries has knocked down these historic barriers by pioneering a new path to ordination that makes it simple for anyone who feels so-called to get ordained online for free. People often "retire" to Florida and instead end up starting a whole new, sometimes even busier chapter of their lives! Are you ready to start the next chapter of your life by joining all the other ULC ministers near you by getting ordained in Florida? This guide will explain how online ordination is accomplished, what legal aspects you should be aware of, and, most importantly: how to become a minister in Florida! Getting ordained online with the Universal Life Church Ministries is as easy as filling out a short online form. You need only input a few basic details to begin your application, then tap submit – that’s it! As soon as your ordination has been processed, you’ll receive a confirmation email with a link to view your official digital ordination certificate on our website. To start the process, hit the button below! Our ordination process is straightforward, quick, and free of charge. Why? Because we believe everyone has the right to captain their own spiritual ship and walk their own path through the universe. Your faith is yours, and we think it’s crucial that you are given the freedom to pursue your beliefs however is most appropriate for you – not according to a long list of guidelines handed down by someone else. 2. Get Your Ordination Certificate After getting ordained online, you should get a physical copy of your credentials. No matter what sorts of ministerial activities youâ€™d like to get involved in, the next step is to ensure you have all the necessary supplies and documents to pursue your goals! Here are some of the most popular items among our ministers in Florida: If those items don't seem relevant to your goals, not to worry! Feel free to explore our full catalog of ministry supplies. Become a Wedding Officiant in Florida Quite a few folks get ordained in hopes of performing a variety of ceremonies - including wedding ceremonies! In fact, ULC ministers perform hundreds of successful wedding ceremonies in Florida each year! A traditional church ceremony in Palm Beach can be wonderful, but what if a couple just wants a friend to perform a Simple Wedding Ceremony in the Keys? Having the freedom to go off-script can make for a magically customized experience. If you plan to perform a wedding, it’s important to understand that because marriage is a legal ceremony, there are many rules that apply. Each state has its own laws regarding marriages and the process for performing them, so you should make an effort to know the requirements that apply in your area. To learn more, please visit our guide on performing weddings in Florida What Can You Do With Your Ordination in Florida? Once you become ordained, you’ll have total freedom to choose how you want to put this new status to use. Regardless of where you’re located in the state of Florida – from Key Largo to Pensacola, you can take advantage of your status as a minister in many different ways. As an ordained minister with the ULC, you can: Solemnize marriages Lead baptisms Preside over funerals Perform a wide variety of other types of ceremonies Some people ordained by the ULC in Florida even go on to start their own churches! To learn more about the potential directions you can take and how to study up on these different specialties, visit our Minister Training Center. What Does it Mean to Be Ordained? Ordination is an ancient rite that has been practiced across many different religious groups across human history. Each faith and denomination has its own method for ordaining its members as serve as ministers – processes that can vary quite significantly from one belief system to another. In the simplest sense, getting ordained indicates that powers have been vested in you to become a minister and carry out duties such as performing ceremonies. The path to ordination was historically a difficult one, requiring many years of schooling and the approval of entrenched leadership – not to mention the financial backing to attend formal education for becoming a minister. The ULC believes such traditional routes are unnecessarily restrictive, which is why we’ve opened the doors of ordination to all those who seek it through a unique online model. We offer this option in Florida because we know how important it is for Floridians to be able to make their own decisions about becoming ordained, free from the barriers imposed by conventional religious bodies. Ordination through the Universal Life Church Ministries confers the same set of rights and privileges enjoyed by members of the clergy ordained by more traditional routes. ULC ministers are empowered to conduct the same types of duties performed by other clergy members from other churches. Are ULC Ordinations Valid in Florida? As an established religious organization in good standing, ordinations conferred by the Universal Life Church are recognized in Florida, and ULC ministers have the authority to perform all normal clergy duties, including officiating legal wedding ceremonies. Is it Legal to Get Ordained Online in Florida? Yes! The First Amendment to the Constitution extends freedom of religion to everyone in the United States, regardless of what their faith is or how they choose to practice it. The ULC has, per its practices, legally ordained thousands of ministers online in Florida. Every day, these intelligent, thoughtful ministers are legally performing services and ceremonies in their communities. The ULC believes that everyone who feels so-called, regardless of their particular beliefs, should have access to ordination and the ability to captain their own spiritual ship. We ask only that our ministers abide by two tenets: Do that which is right, and Every individual is free to practice their religion in the manner of their choosing, so long as that expression does not impinge upon the rights or freedoms of others and is in accordance with the government's laws. How Long Does it Take to Get Ordained in Florida? The amount of time it can take to get ordained can vary depending on what avenue you are taking to become an ordained minister. The ULC believes that ordination should be accessible to any individual who feels so-called, so we've created an innovative platform that allows anyone interested in the path of ordination to apply for that online. Properly requested ULC ordinations are granted almost instantaneously, and we've legally ordained thousands of ministers in Florida who are doing amazing work every day. If you are feeling called to join our community, we'd be happy to welcome you! How Much Does it Cost to Get Ordained in Florida? The cost of ordination depends entirely on how and through which institution you choose to become ordained. Going to a traditional seminary or religious graduate program can cost thousands and thousands of dollars in tuition alone. The ULC has worked tirelessly since its founding to ensure that ordination can be made available to anyone who feels so-called, regardless of their economic status. For this reason, among others, online ordination with the Universal Life Church is absolutely free. This policy has enabled thousands of people who would ordinarily never be able to achieve ordination as a result of their financial limitations to achieve that goal and utilize their new status to improve themselves and their communities. We do ask for a small fee from any minister who chooses to order physical supplies or copies of their credentials to help us cover the cost of those, but the ULC's online ordination itself has no charge and is open to all. How Can You Get Ordained in Florida for Free? As noted above, online ordination with the ULC is always free! If you are interested in applying for online ordination and haven't done so already, please just scroll up to step 1 on this page and hit the big blue button to begin your ordination application and the next big adventure in your life! Do you have to be a resident of Florida? An online ordination from the ULC is not itself state-specific, meaning that you only need to get ordained once and that ordination itself is valid no matter where in the world you happen to be. You should be aware that different states do often have different rules and regulations for how certain ceremonies, like weddings, are meant to be performed - so prior to performing any ceremony with legal significance we always suggest that you reach out to the government office that will be overseeing the results of that ceremony ahead of time to ensure that you have all of the paperwork you'll need. How Old Do You Have to Be to Get Ordained in Florida The Universal Life Church requires that all those who apply for online ordination be at least 18 years of age or older. This age restriction, along with other policies and procedures related to the ordination process, are made clear as you are completing the application form. Any ordination application that is made under false pretenses or in violation of our terms and conditions will be automatically considered void, and we will not be able to defend the legitimacy of any ordination granted under false pretenses or otherwise in violation of our guidelines. Becoming a minister in Florida is even simpler than you might realize! Anyone can get ordained right here on our website and become qualified to perform all different types of ministerial duties, including weddings. It wasn't always this way, however. For much of history, the road to being a minister was difficult, time consuming, and exclusive. As a consequence, the title of "minister" was limited to a select few who were fortunate to have the resources and societal approval to pursue such a goal. The Universal Life Church was founded on a belief that no such barriers – whether financial, identity-based, or otherwise – should prevent someone from following a calling to become a minister. An outgrowth of this commitment is our free and open ordination process that can be done entirely online. Floridians certainly know how to celebrate love, and the beautiful scenery and abundant recreational activities in Florida make it one of the best states in which to get hitched. Residents of the Sunshine State are increasingly becoming ordained in order to celebrate love, enabling them to officiate at wedding ceremonies. In the below guide, we'll explain how online ordination works, talk through the legal considerations that you should be aware of, and show how to become ordained in Florida! The first step to receiving your official ordination credentials starts by completing the application on our website. This form collects some basic information that we ask you to double check before pressing submit. Once completed, your application will be processed in a matter of moments. And then it's official – you'll be a certified minister! To begin, please click the button below: Start Your Ordination You might be thinking "how can it be that easy?" Well, our view is that maximizing access and opportunity is paramount – and that starts by making ordination simple and fast. Opening doors that were once closed spurs every individual to follow their own unique spiritual path, and in the process, pursue goals that they perhaps didn't think attainable before. The freedom to make one's own way in the universe is invaluable, and we're proud to offer an ordination process that fosters an environment where that is encouraged. 2. Put Your Ordination to Use in Florida Once finishing the ordination process and receiving your confirmation, ULC ministers can decide how they'd prefer to use their new title and what activities to pursue. ULC ministers from Jacksonville to Miami are empowered to perform a wide variety of religious ceremonies throughout Florida, including funerals, memorials, and baptisms As a minister of the Universal Life Church, you can: Officiate wedding ceremonies Perform baptisms and christenings Preside over funerals Oversee myriad other spiritual ceremonies Some committed ULC ministers in Florida have even taken things a step further by founding their own ministries or churches! To read more about the paths available to you, please visit our Minister Training Center. 3. How Ordination Works in Florida Understanding how ordination works means understanding its history and significance. Ordination is a process of consecration that has been carried out for centuries by all different types of religions and denominations. While each faith tends to put its own unique spin on it, in a broad sense, ordination is a process that certifies an individual as a member of the clergy in a religious body. Being granted ordination distinguishes a member as a leader and bestows upon them the authority to carry out duties of the clergy (like performing weddings, for example). In the past, becoming ordained demanded years and years of study, taking difficult tests, and winning approval from leadership. It was also notoriously exclusive – often along gender lines. In our view, this backwards approach inhibits progress by creating unnecessary barriers to ordination for many people seeking to make a difference in the world. That’s why we've pioneered an open, online process that provides ordination to anyone who feels so-called. We're thrilled to offer ordination online in Florida because we believe everyone has the right to follow their spiritual goals freely – goals that might include becoming a minister! Best of all, ordination from the Universal Life Church provides the same rights and benefits enjoyed by other types of clergy members; our members are granted the authority to perform all the duties carried out by members of more traditional denominations. 4. Ordination Supplies Required in Florida When considering what ways you plan to put your ordination to use, it's important to make sure you have all the materials, documents, and other supplies to perform these duties! Requirements may vary, but ULC ministers in Florida generally report that these items are the most helpful: Regardless of what direction you choose to take your ordination in, know that we've got your back with all the knowledge, tools, and resources you might need to achieve your goals! 5. Use Your Ordination to Perform Weddings in Florida People choose to become ordained for a variety of different reasons. Once ordained, these new ministers are often eager to perform ceremonies. In particular, we hear from many ULC ministers who are excited about officiating wedding ceremonies. Many happy couples may choose to have a non-denominational wedding ceremony in a city such as Orlando, where the numerous theme parks may provide the perfect backdrop. The Florida Keys' picturesque beaches and tropical climate make them another popular destination for ceremonies. Some married couples may opt for a wedding vow renewal ceremony in the Keys. If you think officiating a wedding may be in the cards for you, it’s important to read up on wedding laws in the area where you'd be performing the ceremony. Keep in mind that these requirements can differ from place to place, so be sure to check the specific rules for your state (and county). To learn more about the process in your area, please visit our guide for officiating a wedding in Florida. How Florida Recognizes ULC Ordinations As a recognized religious organization in good standing in Florida, Universal Life Church Ministries has the power to issue ordinations to its members – ordinations that the state accepts as valid. In accordance with the laws of Florida, ministers ordained with the ULCM have the authority to carry out all regular clergy duties, including officiating legal wedding ceremonies. The Universal Life Church accepts anyone, regardless of their particular denomination. The church believes anyone should have the right to become ordained as a minister and “captain their own spiritual ship”, no matter what their specific beliefs may be. Many people would like to become ordained, but are concerned it is too long of a process or that they will be rejected because they aren’t “religious” enough. Thankfully, this isn’t something you need to worry about with the Universal Life Church. If you are looking to become a minister but don’t want to go through a lengthy process, then the Get Ordained™ service is the perfect solution for you. Using Get Ordained™ The Get Ordained™ service to become a minister is just as simple as it sounds. Once you are ordained, you will be legally recognized as a minister nearly anywhere. All you need to do is click the button to be led to the proper form. Fill out your information and then you can submit your request to become ordained. There are no tests to take and no lengthy forms to fill out. You will receive confirmation within a few minutes, and you can also receive a hard copy of your Minister’s License or any other supplies you’d like in the mail if you request these things from the church catalog. After your form has been submitted and accepted, you will be legally recognized as a minister. Become a minister online with Get Ordained™ Benefits of Online Ordination There are several benefits to using Get Ordained™. In addition to the process being incredibly fast and simple, the Get Ordained™ website gives you the ability to perform any ceremony that requires a minister or priest. After using Get Ordained™, you will be legally able to: Perform weddings: Whether it’s because two close friends have asked you to marry them or you would like to offer your services to anyone who would like to be married, you will now be able to do so legally. Check out all the steps to perform a wedding in your vicinity here. Perform baptisms: You will be able to baptize people and perform other ceremonies affiliated with your religion. Perform funerals: You will now be able to officiate funerals and honor loved ones who have passed on. Start a congregation: You will be able to start a church if you feel so led. Thanks to the simplicity of online ordination, anyone can be ordained, which means these ceremonies can have a much more personal feel. For example, if someone asks you to baptize them because they feel a connection with you, whether it’s because you are a family member or because you helped them on their spiritual journey, you will be able to become a minister so you can legally do so. Become a Minister in Your Area The act of becoming a minister in your state - and the work you will be able to perform as a minister in your area - can vary based on whichever state you are located in. You can select your location from the map or drop-down below to learn exactly what process you need to follow to become ordained in your state, and to review specific guidance on how you will be able to utilize your new ordination as we walk you through how to perform ceremonies like weddings, baptism, funerals, or just general ministry in your state. Select your state Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming Important Tips for the Process While the process is easy, there are a few key things to keep in mind when filling out the form to become ordained. First of all, make sure you put your entire legal name. Don’t include any nicknames or shortened versions of your name. Don’t add any information that is not true. Make sure you have filled out your name and email address properly. Double check your form before submitting to make sure it is completely accurate. Use proper capitalization, as the way you fill out your name on the form will be how it is shown on your Minister’s Certificate and records. Don’t submit the form on someone else’s behalf without their permission. Remember any false, misleading, or incorrect information will lead to your application being rejected. Connecting With Community Once you have become a minister, you may be looking for ways to connect with The Universal Life Church’s community. There are several ways you can do this. You can join their Facebook page or create a profile on their online forum and begin posting. This is a great way to get your questions answered, connect with others who think the same way as you, and express any concern you may be feeling. This will help you to become confident in being ordained and make it easier for you to perform ceremonies with more assurance. Connecting with the community is also a great resource for you. You can get ideas for sermons, access to outreach programs, access to a ministerial training center, and guidance on other issues like insurance and other financial matters. If you are looking to officiate a wedding, you will benefit from the information on wedding laws in each state, ideas for the wedding ceremony, and other guidance. Get Ordained™ Legality After you have become ordained online, your ordination will be recognized nearly everywhere. However, you should check the validity of your certificate before performing a ceremony. Laws can vary from state to state and even between counties, so checking to make sure your certificate is valid is important. In order to do this, check with the county clerk in the county you will be officiating the ceremony in. The Get Ordained™ ministries is something that is widely recognized, but you will want to double check to make sure you’re safe. If you are looking for a way to become a minister without a big hassle, then doing so online is the best option for you. Fill out the form to become ordained so you can perform the religious ceremonies you desire. Click the button below to get started: Become a minister online with Get Ordained™ Have you ever thought about helping people celebrate some of the most significant moments in their lives? Getting ordained in Florida as a wedding officiant could be your first step into ministry. As a wedding officiant, you’ll guide couples through their special day in a way that honors God and reflects their love. Ministry is not just about preaching—it’s about walking alongside people, supporting them, and celebrating life’s milestones. Officiating weddings is a beautiful way to start, as marriage is a sacred bond designed by God to bring joy and unity. Becoming a Wedding Officiant in Florida Becoming a wedding officiant in Florida is straightforward, but it requires thoughtful preparation. Your journey begins by meeting the couple to understand their vision for the ceremony. You’ll also guide them through a rehearsal, ensuring everyone knows their role and feels at ease. On the big day, you’ll lead a service that may include prayer, Scripture readings, and a meaningful message that highlights the couple’s love and commitment. By getting ordained in Florida through the Christian Leaders Alliance (CLA), you’ll have the credentials and training necessary to officiate weddings both confidently and legally. Creating Meaningful Wedding Messages One of the most impactful aspects of being a wedding officiant is crafting the wedding message. This is a chance to inspire the couple and their guests by sharing God’s design for marriage. Using Scripture, you can speak about the sacredness of marriage and how it strengthens and enriches lives. Many officiants find this experience deeply rewarding, often leading them to explore additional ministry opportunities. Christian Leaders Alliance and Your Ministry Journey The Christian Leaders Alliance provides everything you need to grow in your ministry calling. With free training offered by the Christian Leaders Institute (CLI), you’ll gain essential skills to serve your community effectively. Whether officiating weddings, offering pastoral care, or stepping into leadership roles, CLA equips you for impactful service. The Christian Leaders Alliance Ordination Program Since 2014, the Christian Leaders Alliance has been equipping individuals for ministry through a study-based ordination program. Thousands of people have embraced their calling and become ordained for various officiant and ministerial roles. Some of the most popular roles include: Wedding Officiant: Guide couples as they begin their lives together in holy matrimony. Pastoral Care Minister: Offer spiritual guidance and support during life’s challenges. House Church Minister: Lead small, community-focused gatherings in worship and prayer. Chaplain: Provide care and comfort in hospitals, workplaces, or other institutions. Why Start Your Ministry in Florida? Florida is home to diverse communities and countless opportunities to serve. By becoming ordained, you can step into a meaningful role that allows you to share God’s love through weddings and beyond. Whether you officiate one ceremony or expand your ministry to include teaching, counseling, or leadership, you’ll have a lasting impact on those you serve. Answering God’s Call 1 Peter 4:10 (WEB) reminds us: “As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms.” Getting ordained allows you to use your God-given gifts to bring joy, guidance, and hope to others while honoring Christ. Start Your Journey Today Becoming ordained in Florida is more than a credential—it’s a calling to serve others and share God’s love. With support from the Christian Leaders Alliance and Christian Leaders Institute, you’ll receive the training and resources needed to officiate weddings and grow your ministry. Take the first step today with Christian Leaders Alliance and begin your ministry journey, making a difference in your community and beyond. Officiant Ordination Roles Minister Ordination Roles