

# The Apostolic Guardian Church of Grace and Blessing

## Church Membership

The Apostolic Guardian Church of Grace and Blessing is organized around a initiatic-like degree structure which encourages (but does not require) all members to seek minor Orders. All who feel in harmony with the spirit of the Apostolic Guardian Church are welcome to participate at whatever level they feel moved to do so.

The Church offers 9 levels of participation. These are Congregant, four degrees of Apprenticeship called Minor Orders, a Portal to the Major Orders called Sub-Deacon, and three degrees of Mastery called Major Orders.

**Congregants.** This is the first and basic degree of participation. These are individuals who attend our local Church services, or perhaps simply participate online by studying Church Papers, joining online chats, exchanging email, but are not necessarily involved in any of our initiatic traditions.

**Minor Orders.** We offer 4 minor Orders which may be thought of as degrees of apprenticeship to which all are encouraged to participate. In the Church, these 4 minor Orders are known as:

First Apprentice: Order of Doorkeeper. *Can possibly be done at a distance.*

Second Apprentice: Order of Reader. *Can possibly be done at a distance.*

Third Apprentice: Order of Cleanser. *Can possibly be done at a distance.*

Fourth Apprentice: Order of Acolyte. *Can possibly be done at a distance.*

Those who have received the minor Orders may assist (if they so desire) in the celebration of the Sacraments (at the discretion of the officiating priest), but they have no obligation or Church authority to pursue an active independent ministry. Each Candidate progresses through a series of self-paced, supervised studies, practices, and Rites of Passage. Persons who satisfactorily complete the requirements for all four minor Orders may, if they so desire, apply to receive training in the Major Orders. Minor orders, also called subdiaconate, are not of Apostolic origin.

For all those seeking Minor or Major Holy Orders the following are required and must be done in physically and in-person:

**1 - Baptism:** We will accept verifiable baptism by any recognized church (preferably with Apostolic Authority).

**2 - Confirmation:** We will accept verifiable confirmation by another recognized church holding valid Apostolic Authority.

As a Portal to the Major Orders we offer the work of the Sub-Deacon which must be done physically and in-person.

**Major Orders.** This is the most intense degree of participation. The Major Orders include Deacon, Priest, and Bishop and may be thought of as three degrees of Mastery. These are selectively offered to those who wish to pursue an active ministry within and under the umbrella of the Apostolic Guardian Church. The major Orders, which are almost universally recognized, include.

First Degree of Mastery: Deacon

Second Degree of Mastery: Priest

Third Degree of Mastery: Bishop

While the structure of the Apostolic Guardian Church of Grace and Blessing is similar to others, we wish to emphasize that equal participation is encouraged among all members.