



PRESBYTERIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
MUSICIANS

Professional Certification for Church Musicians

The purpose of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians [PAM] Certification is two-fold. It affirms the gained wisdom of a PAM member as a result of their active leadership in the work and mission of the church. In addition, the certification process is an effective educational tool for expanding the musician's knowledge of both the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and how the music of the church may contribute towards the worship and glorification of God. Certification is an important step in professional development and recognition within the church. PAM encourages pastors and sessions to support musicians in working towards achieving this goal.

The following requirements must be met before applying for certification.

1. The applicant shall hold a current membership in PAM and will maintain an active membership throughout the certification process.
2. The applicant will have served as a church musician for no less than 3 years.

Certification Process

1. The applicant will submit the [Application, Resumé, and References](#).
2. The Chair of the Certification Subcommittee will acknowledge the application, and the PAM staff will verify membership.
3. The PAM staff will place the candidate in the Certification Candidate Forum.
4. The applicant will complete sections I – IV under Certified Church Musician Requirements and submit appropriate documentation as completed throughout the process within five years of the initial application.
5. All materials will be evaluated by the Certification Subcommittee and another certified member.
6. Upon completion of all requirements, the Certification Subcommittee will submit its recommendation to the Educational Resources Subcommittee, which will then forward its recommendation to the PAM Board for final approval.

7. Once approved, the applicant, the applicant's pastor, Clerk of Session, and Presbytery will be informed of the awarding of certification by the PAM staff.

Certified Church Musician Requirements:

SECTION I - The Bible and Reformed Worship:

1. Documented participation in at least 30 hours of workshops or classes that address aspects of worship planning and leadership.
 - No more than 15 class hours may be accumulated at one conference
 - Up to 10 hours may be from non-PAM events, as approved by the Certification Subcommittee.
2. Documented worship attendance at a minimum of two PAM-related conferences.
3. Participate in a local or online Bible survey course (examples include Disciple Bible Study, Opening Doors for Discipleship, and online courses such as the "Be A Disciple"). Or attend three 5-day Bible classes (15 hours) at a PAM-related conference.
4. Write an original essay (not to exceed 1,000 words) on the subject of "The Role of Music and the Scripture in Reformed Worship".

SECTION II - Faith and Development

1. Participate in five hours of workshops or classes that address aspects of staff relationships, employment in the church, and/or professional concerns.
2. Read at least one book in the Music Ministry section of "Suggested Resources in Church Music and Related Fields" ([available from the PAM National Office or the PAM website](#)) and write an original essay (not to exceed 1,000 words) responding to and reflecting on the content of the text selected.
3. Reflect upon your personal experience as a church musician in an original essay (not to exceed 1,000 words).

SECTION III - Polity of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

1. Familiarize yourself with the contents of the:
 - *Book of Confessions*
 - *Book of Order*, especially the Form of Government (G) and Directory for Worship (W) sections.
 - Article [Lines of Authority](#) by John Sall.

2. Write an original essay (not to exceed 1,000 words) demonstrating your understanding of the Presbyterian form of government, of the organization of the local congregation, and lines of authority within a particular church as it relates to the role of church musician.

SECTION IV - Continuing Education in Music

1. Participate in 15 class hours of workshops, masterclasses, or ensembles.
 - Up to five hours from any one conference performing ensemble may apply towards this requirement.
 - Up to five hours may be obtained through non-PAM events, including private instruction.
2. Read a book or article, watch a video, or attend a lecture in the field of music and submit a short, written summary (not to exceed 400 words). Content of the summary should include new learnings and insights gained from the resource.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Use [class verification forms](#) to document class and worship participation. This form is found on the Certification page of the PAM website. Candidates must complete all sections of the verification form, including the brief evaluation of each event attended, and submit these with their documentation.
2. Essays must be the candidate's original work and should not exceed 1,000 words.
3. Section IV.2 should not exceed 400 words.