7. CLASS 4-D - MINISTER OF RELIGION

a. DEFINITIONS. The following definitions shall be applied in the interpretation and resolution of a claim for ministerial exemption.

(1) **Minister.** A person who is recognized by a church, religious sect or organization of which he is a member as having been authorized to preach and teach the principles of religion of that church, sect or organization and to administer the ordinances thereof in public worship.

(2) **Recognized Church or Religious Organization.** One established on the basis of a community of faith and belief, doctrines and practices of a religious character, which engages primarily in religious activities.

(3) **Vocation.** Define as one's primary regular occupation or profession.

b. BASIS FOR CLASSIFICATION.

(1) The Area Office will furnish Claim Documentation Form - Minister of Religion (SSS Form 25) to assist the registrant in documenting his claim.

(2) In order for a registrant to be granted a ministerial exemption, he must establish to the satisfaction of the board that the following conditions exist:

   (a) He is recognized by his church, religious sect or organization as a minister of religion, either through ordination or some other form, depending upon the requirement of the church, sect or organization of which he is a member.

   (b) His church, sect or organization is established on the basis of a community of faith and belief, doctrines and practices of a religious nature.

   (c) He is presently serving as a minister as his primary occupation spending a minimum of 100 hours each month on ministerial activities.

(3) In evaluating the claim, the training and abilities of the registrant for duty as a minister, or the motive or sincerity of the registrant in serving as a minister, should not be considered relevant.

c. ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE OF MINISTER OF RELIGION.

(1) A registrant who claims to be a duly ordained minister of religion must submit a Certificate of Ordination or other document to prove his ordination was in accordance with the ceremonial ritual of his church, sect or religious organization.

(2) A registrant who claims to be a regular minister of religion must prove that he is so recognized by his church, sect or religious organization. He may
submit statements from church officials and members as proof of recognition.

(3) The basic distinction between a duly ordained minister and a regular minister is that an ordained minister is required to be ordained by the church, sect or religious organization in accordance with a ceremonial ritual or discipline. A regular minister of religion is not required to be ordained by his church, sect or religious organization but he must be recognized by his church as a minister.

d. ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE OF RECOGNIZED CHURCH.

(1) The church, sect or religious organization of which the registrant is a minister must meet one or more of each of the structural and functional conditions.

(2) The structural conditions to be considered are:
   
   (a) An organized structure with leaders who set policy and make administrative decisions.
   
   (b) An organizational hierarchy.
   
   (c) Congregations, chapters or groups to which members belong.
   
   (d) Scheduled services or meetings.
   
   (e) The use of some form of liturgical materials.
   
   (f) Member recognition of the organization as a governing body.

(3) The functional conditions to be considered are:

   (a) A system of beliefs or tenets held in common by members to provide guidance in their daily lives.

   (b) A system of beliefs which urges a mode of conduct.

   (c) Shared beliefs that impose a collective duty of conscience such as the belief in the right or wrong of certain behavior.

   (d) The emotional/spiritual content of the beliefs should fill a need, such as a sense of community or emotional support.

e. ANALYSIS OF CUSTOMARY VOCATION.

(1) A registrant must establish to the satisfaction of the Board that his primary occupation is preaching and teaching the principles of his church, sect or religious organization and that his preaching and teaching is performed on a regular basis.
(2) A registrant may be considered as having "administered the ordinances of public worship" if he demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that he is preaching and teaching the principles of his church, religious sect or organization regularly as a vocation.

(3) It is not required that a registrant's preaching or teaching be from a formal pulpit. Such activities can be conducted on street corners or from door to door as long as they are the registrant's primary occupation and are performed regularly. He is presently serving as a minister as his primary occupation spending a minimum of 100 hours each month on ministerial activities.

(4) Part-time, half-time, occasional or irregular preaching and teaching are insufficient to establish the ministry as the registrant's customary vocation. These activities must be performed regularly. Some secular work is permitted because of the inability of some churches or religious organizations to provide subsistence to their ministers; however, each situation must be examined on the basis of its factual circumstances.

f. EXCLUSIONS FROM CLASS 4-D. A registrant shall be excluded from Class 4-D for any of the following reasons:

(1) He is not recognized by his church, sect or religious organization as a minister of religion.

(2) He is not currently engaged in the practice of his ministerial vocation.

(3) He only irregularly or incidentally preaches and teaches the principles of religion of his church, sect or religious organization.

g. TYPES OF DECISIONS.

(1) After evaluating all of the relevant evidence contained in the registrant's file, the board may grant a reclassification into Class 4-D when the registrant has established, to the satisfaction of the board, that he meets the prescribed criteria.

(2) The board shall deny a claim for Class 4-D when the evidence fails to meet the prescribed criteria as outlined in this section.

h. TIME LIMITS.

Registrants classified in Class 4-D shall be retained in that class unless the basis for the classification ceases to exist.
5. **CLASS 2-D - REGISTRANT DEFERRED BECAUSE OF STUDY PREPARING FOR THE MINISTRY**

a. **DEFINITIONS.** These definitions shall be applied in the interpretation and resolution of claims based on study preparing for the ministry.

   (1) **Full-time Intern Program.** One which runs simultaneous with or immediately follows the completion of theological or divinity training and is required by a recognized church or religious organization for entry into the ministry.

   (2) **Graduate Program.** One in which the registrant's studies are officially approved by his church or religious organization and are required for entry into service as a minister of religion.

   (3) **Ministry.** The vocation and practice of a person who is recognized by a church, religious sect or religious organization of which he is a member, as having been authorized to preach and teach the principles of religion of the church, sect or organization and to administer the ordinances thereof in public worship.

   (4) **Recognized Church or Religious Organization.** One established on the basis of a community of faith and belief, doctrines and practices of a religious character, which engages primarily in religious activities.

   (5) **Recognized Theological or Divinity School.** Those who graduate are acceptable for ministerial duties by the church or religious organization sponsoring a registrant as a full-time student.

   (6) **Satisfactorily Pursuing a Full-Time Course of Instruction.** Maintaining a satisfactory academic record as determined by an accredited institution while receiving full-time instruction in a structured learning situation or online (via computer). A full-time course of instruction does not include a mail-order ministerial program.

b. **BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION.**

   (1) The Area Office will furnish Claim Documentation Form - Divinity Student (SSS Form 23) to assist the registrant in documenting his claim.

   (2) A registrant must be preparing for the ministry under the direction of a recognized church or religious organization in one of the following ways:

   (a) Satisfactorily pursuing a full-time course of instruction required for entrance into a recognized theological or divinity school for which the school provides documentation that the registrant has been by the school as a regular student.
(b) Satisfactorily pursuing a full-time course of instruction in a recognized theological or divinity school.

(c) Having completed theological or divinity school, be a student in a full-time graduate program or be a full-time intern whose studies are related to and lead to entry into service as a minister of religion.

(3) Satisfactory progress in his studies, as determined by the school in which the registrant is enrolled, must be maintained for continuation of the deferment.

c. ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE OF RECOGNIZED CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION.

(1) In order for a church or religious organization to be recognized under Selective Service law, the church or religious organization needs to meet one or more of each of the structural and functional conditions.

(2) The structural conditions to be considered are:

(a) An organized structure with leaders who set policy and make administrative decisions.

(b) An organizational hierarchy.

(c) Congregations, chapters or groups to which members belong.

(d) Scheduled services or meetings.

(e) The use of some form of liturgical materials.

(f) Member recognition of the organization as a governing body.

(3) The functional conditions to be considered are:

(a) A system of beliefs or tenets held in common by members to provide guidance in their daily lives.

(b) A system of beliefs which urges a mode of conduct.

(c) Shared beliefs that impose a collective duty of conscience such as belief in the right or wrong of certain behavior.

(d) Emotional/spiritual content of beliefs to fill a need, such as a sense of community or emotional support.

(4) These guidelines shall be applied to measure the statutory requirement that the student's ministerial education at a recognized divinity or
theological school is under the sponsorship of a recognized church or religious organization.

d. ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE OF STUDENT PREPARING FOR THE MINISTRY.

(1) The registrant shall submit a statement from the church or religious organization to the effect that he is preparing for the ministry under its direction. The statement must be properly signed and dated by a church official authorized to make the statement.

(2) The registrant shall submit official documentation, signed and dated by a school official authorized to make the statement, indicating that he is preparing for the ministry as a divinity student, a graduate student, or a full-time intern.

(3) When a registrant is pursuing a full-time course of instruction leading to entrance in a recognized theological or divinity school in which he has been pre-enrolled, he shall also submit official documentation, signed and dated by a school official authorized to make the statement, indicating his pre-enrollment and commencement date.

(4) The board may require the registrant to obtain from the church, religious organization or school, detailed information relevant to its determination of whether the theological or divinity school is a recognized school and whether the church or religious organization which is sponsoring the registrant is recognized.

e. EXCLUSIONS FROM CLASS 2-D.

(1) A registrant shall be excluded from Class 2-D if he is enrolled only in a mail-order program of study for the ministry.

(2) A registrant shall be excluded from Class 2-D if he fails to establish any of the following elements:

(a) The theological or divinity school is a recognized school.

(b) He is sponsored by a recognized church or religious organization.

(c) He is a full-time student.

(d) He is maintaining satisfactory academic progress.

(e) The graduate program or intern program in which he is enrolled is related to and will lead to entry into service as a minister of religion.
f. TYPES OF DECISIONS.

(1) After evaluating all of the relevant evidence contained in the registrant's file, the board may grant a reclassification into Class 2-D for up to 12 months after the start of the current academic school year.

(2) The board shall deny a claim for Class 2-D when the evidence fails to meet any of the criteria established in this paragraph.

(3) A denial based on failure of the evidence to meet any of the criteria established in this paragraph must be explained in the statement of denial, and specific mention must be made of the particular document or lack thereof upon which the denial is based.

g. TIME LIMITS.

(1) A registrant will be classified 2-D until the anniversary of his entrance into the course of study, or his scheduled graduation, whichever occurs first.

(2) When a registrant's 2-D classification expires, he may request another 2-D classification if he continues to be a full-time student making satisfactory progress. Such a request will be processed by the Area Office and considered by the board in the same manner as the original request for Class 2-D.