



# Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tanquebar House, Tiruchirappalli – 620 001



## Pre Theological Ministerial Candidate Selection guidelines

***“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15***

Beloved in Christ, the Lord continues to raise up men and women to serve His Church. Before they enter formal theological education, they must be equipped in faith, knowledge, and character. Therefore, this theological training will help the candidates who blessed to do BD studies.

### **Secular Degree Qualification**

All pre-theological trainees are encouraged to complete at least one recognized secular academic qualification (Bachelor's degree) from an recognized university before, or alongside, their theological preparation.

### **Selection Process**

The selection of pre-theological trainees shall be carried out through a prayerful, transparent, and merit-based process to ensure that only those with a genuine calling, spiritual maturity, and academic readiness are admitted. The process will include the following stages:

1. **Application Submission** – Interested candidates must submit a completed application form with personal details, testimony of salvation, statement of calling, educational qualifications, and pastoral reference.
2. **Pastoral Recommendation** – The candidate's local pastor must provide a written recommendation affirming the candidate's faith, character, and suitability for ministry preparation.
3. **Written Examinations** – To ensure that pre-theological trainees are adequately prepared, our church conducts examinations and interviews as part of the process prior to their seminary entrance examinations.
  - **Biblical Knowledge Test** – To assess understanding of the bible both OT and NT, Biblical doctrines, and Christian ethics.
  - **General Knowledge Test** – To evaluate awareness of current affairs in the following fields, history, geography, science, fine arts, religion, economic, political, social and cultural
  - **English Grammar Test** – To ensure proficiency in reading, writing, and communication for theological studies. The candidate is expected to have a basic knowledge of English grammar and composition.

4. **Personal Interview** – Conducted by the Bishop /President and church council to evaluate spiritual maturity, communication skills, motivation, and ministry potential.
5. **Final Review & Prayerful Decision** – The Bishop /President and church council will prayerfully deliberate on all results and recommendations before making the final decision.

### **Admission to Seminary**

Selected candidates will receive an official letter of acceptance from The Bishop /President and church council confirming their successful completion of the pre-theological selection process. This letter will serve as both a formal endorsement and a recommendation to proceed with the seminary admission process. Candidates will also be given pastoral counsel regarding the choice of seminary, course of study, and financial planning. Once admitted in the seminary the church will continue to offer spiritual mentorship, prayer support, and periodic follow-up during the course of their theological studies, ensuring that their training remains both academically sound and spiritually grounded.

### **Financial Support for Seminary Studies**

While the Church recognizes the importance of investing in future ministers, full financial sponsorship will not be provided for seminary education. Instead, **partial financial support of up to ₹25,000/- per year** may be offered to eligible candidates, based on demonstrated financial need, academic performance, and faithful commitment to ministry. This support shall be given as a supplement to the trainee's own financial contribution and any scholarships or assistance obtained from other sources.

The Church believes that sharing in the cost of one's own education encourages personal responsibility, good stewardship, and a deeper appreciation for the training received. All financial assistance will be subject to annual review, and the continuation of support will depend upon the candidate's academic progress, conduct, and spiritual growth throughout the course of study.

### **Conclusion & Pastoral Greeting**

It is our prayer that every candidate who enters this pre-theological training program will grow in knowledge of God's Word, Christlike character, and readiness for ministry. May this process not only prepare the mind for academic study but also shape the heart for faithful service in God's vineyard. We entrust each trainee to "Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20), confident that He who called them will also equip and sustain them.

**With prayerful best wishes for God's guidance, wisdom, and grace in all future endeavors.**

Yours in His Service

Rt.Rev.Dr.AChristian Samraj

The Bishop/ President, TELC