

# Recognition Guildline

This process is for men and women who sense a call from God to serve in one of the leadership offices of Gardens in Exile — Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors/Teachers (Elders/Overseers), or Deacons. It provides a pathway of recognition for both those who have ministry experience and meet the qualification.

## 1. Character Questions (for Family & Church Leaders)

These should test the integrity, reputation, and fruit of the Spirit in the candidate's life.

- Does the candidate display Christlike humility, love, and self-control in their daily life?
  - How do they handle conflict, correction, or disagreement?
  - Are they faithful in marriage/family responsibilities (if applicable), and do they manage their household well? (1 Tim 3:4–5)
  - Do they have a consistent devotional/prayer life that bears fruit in godliness?
  - How do you see their reputation inside and outside the church (e.g., workplace, neighbors)?
  - Have you observed patterns of sin or immaturity that could disqualify or hinder them in leadership?
  - Would you trust this person with spiritual authority over your own family?
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## 2. Ministry Questions (from Ministry References)

These should test calling, fruit, and gifting in the specific office sought.

### For Apostles

- Have they demonstrated capacity to plant, oversee, or strengthen churches?
- Have they raised and equipped other leaders?
- Do they carry a proven ability to pioneer new works and persevere under trial?

### For Prophets

- Do they exercise prophetic gifting that edifies, exhorts, and comforts the church?
- Have their words been biblically sound, tested, and proven accurate?
- Do they display humility and accountability when corrected or tested?

### For Evangelists

- Is there evidence of consistent fruit in evangelism (people coming to faith)?
- Do they train and inspire others to share the Gospel?
- Do they remain rooted in sound doctrine while engaging the lost?

## For Pastors/Teachers (Elders/Overseers)

- Do they teach sound doctrine with clarity and faithfulness?
- Have they shepherded believers through discipleship, counsel, and care?
- Do they protect the flock from false teaching and division?

## For Deacons

- Do they serve faithfully and are they skilled in meeting the needs or gifts of the needs of the local church?
  - Are they reliable, trustworthy, and willing to serve without seeking recognition?
  - Do they demonstrate spiritual maturity even in practical service roles?
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## 3. Other Needed Steps (Beyond Questions)

To make the process complete and consistent:

- **Theological Examination:** Oral or written exam based on the curriculum set by the Apostolic Council.
- **Document Agreement:** Candidate must read, understand, and sign the Charter and Leadership Bylaws.
- **Mentor Report:** Recognizing leader writes a formal report with testimony of the candidate's qualifications, discernment, and recommendation.
- **Council Record:** The Apostolic Council receives the report for official record.
- **Public Appointment:** The leader publicly appoints the candidate through prayer and laying on of hands.
- **Discipline Clause:** If references or reports are found to be dishonest, both candidate and mentor may face discipline.

## 4. Authority to Recognize Leaders

**Apostles** → All offices

**Prophets** → Prophets

**Evangelists** → Evangelists

**Pastors/Teachers** → Pastors/Teachers and Deacons

**Deacons** → None (they're appointed by Apostles or Pastors/Teachers)