

Ordination of the Pastor

- A. **ORDINATION** The church shall consider a man as a candidate for ordination if he shall have fulfilled the following qualifications:
1. He must have received a specific calling to a definite preaching ministry in the kingdom of our Lord such as (1) to be a pastor of a church, (2) to be a chaplain in the armed forces of our country or in one of our institutions, (3) to the office of an evangelist as a distinct calling from God, or (4) to fill a specific assignment in the work of our Lord that requires ordination.
 2. He must demonstrate a deep conviction and personal knowledge of the doctrines of the church and a proficiency in expressing them as a preacher and teacher of the faith.
 3. He must be a member of the church unless the candidate has been a member of the church previously and the ordination committee determines that an exception to this requirement is warranted.
- B. **LICENSING** The church shall have the privilege and authority to license a man to exercise his gifts in the preaching of the Gospel when convinced of his Christian character and of his evident call to the ministry. As in ordination, he should be a member of the church unless there is a most evident and applicable exception. It is understood that an ordination is the setting aside of a minister for a specific calling in which ordination is required, whereas a license to preach is the approval and recommendation of the church that the man might be received as a minister of the Gospel.

It can be seen from this paragraph that licensing a man to preach is the public commendation of the church of a brother to the Christian world that he exercise his gifts for the Lord. It is a word of approval and recommendation of a man as a preacherminister of the Gospel.

Ordination, on the other hand, is the setting aside of a God-called preacher for a particular office. Ordination is strictly scriptural. It is not, however, the ultimate source of ministerial authority. This is found in the call of the Holy Spirit and the election by the church, of which ordination is the public recognition and the completing act.

The word *ordain* in the King James Version of the New Testament never denotes the ceremony of ordination. The word is used six times in connection with the sacred office and is, in each instance, the translation of a different Greek word. Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22; 17:31; and 1 Timothy 2:7 refer not to a formal ceremony of ordination but to the appointment to a sacred office. The same is true in Acts 14:23, and in Titus 1:5, although here the word may possibly include the whole procedure, both the choice and the ordaining ceremony.

Although the word *ordain* is not used, there are three instances of ordination or the public setting apart to church office found in the New Testament; that of the seven in Acts 6:6; that of Barnabas and Saul in Acts 13:1-3; and that of Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:14. Then we could add also the admonition in 1 Timothy 5:22 to “lay hands suddenly on no man”.

The procedures we follow in the ordination of a preacher-pastor are these:

- (1) There is a conference between the candidate and the pastor or leadership body of the ordaining church at which time the reasons for the ordination are discussed.
- (2) A time is set for the candidate to appear before an ordination council on ordination approved by the church.
- (3) The council thoroughly examines the candidate concerning his conversion, baptism, church membership, call to the ministry, doctrinal understanding, personal integrity, and family relationships. He is to be systematically and searchingly examined.
- (4) The council reports to the pastor of the ordaining church, and to the church itself and if the report is favorable, a time is announced for the public ordination of the candidate and the church votes to proceed with the ordination.
- (5) The ordination service will be planned by the council and the candidate. A sample is herein provided.

Ordination Service

Pre-Service Music

Welcome – Explanation of Ordination

Pastor

Scripture & Prayer

Hymn No. 144

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

Hymn No. 54

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Solo Music

Introduction of Candidate

Testimony of Candidate

Examination of Candidate Ordination Council

Ordination Message

Dedication Prayer

Laying On Of Hands Ordination Council

Presentation From Church

Closing Prayer

Reception

Ordination Council Consists of All Ordained Ministers & Deacons

THE ORDINATION COUNCIL

The purpose of the council is to ascertain the doctrinal position of the candidates. Therefore, most of the questions should be focused on their theological positions. On the other hand, we need to know how their theology reflects on their personal life and ministry. Be sure to carefully question the candidate in areas which may not be clear. The following are some sample and suggested questions which may be asked:

1. Do you believe in scriptural inerrancy, and what do you mean by the use of that word?
2. What do you understand the terms “verbally inspired” and “infallible” to mean?
3. What is your view of creation?
4. How do you explain the expression: “final authority for faith and practice”?
5. Give your understanding of the term Trinity.
6. How do you understand the expression “true God and true Man” as applied to Christ?
7. State your concept of the atonement. Why was it necessary?
8. What is the importance of the resurrection?
9. When we refer to the Holy Spirit as the “third person of the Godhead”, what does it mean?
10. What is the role of the Holy Spirit today?
11. Describe the differences between:
 - 1) Filling of the Spirit
 - 2) The baptism of the Spirit
 - 3) The anointing of the Spirit
 - 4) Indwelling of the Spirit
12. What is the place of the Spiritual gifts in the church?
 - 1) What was the purpose of them in the New Testament?
 - 2) How would you understand and teach concerning the so called “sign gifts”?
On what biblical basis?
 - 3) What would you do if someone began to speak in tongues in your church?

13. Define the phrase, "Salvation by grace through faith".
14. Define repentance.
15. Define justification.
16. Define sanctification.
17. Give us your views on baptism and the Lord's Supper.
 - 1) How do you respond to someone who says you must be baptized to be saved?
 - 2) How do you respond to Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21?
18. What is the relationship between the local church and the universal church?
19. What are the types of church government and which do you espouse?
20. What is the basis for membership in the local church?
21. What are the requirements for membership?
22. What is the eternal state of the unbelieving dead?
23. Briefly outline your eschatological views.
24. What are the main biblical passages upon which you base your eschatological views?
25. What is the role of the Old Testament for the church today?
26. How do you relate the Old Testament concept of law to the New Testament concept of grace?
27. What is the destiny of the heathen who never hear about Jesus and salvation?
28. How were people saved during Old Testament times?
29. Can a genuinely saved person lose/reject his salvation?
30. What is your view regarding divorce and remarriage? On what biblical grounds?
31. What is your view regarding the role of women in the church? On what biblical grounds?
32. What is your view regarding homosexuality? On what biblical grounds?

33. What is your view regarding abortion? On what biblical grounds?
34. What is your view regarding social drinking? On what biblical grounds?
35. In what ways does spiritual warfare affect the lives of the people in your church? What should we do to protect ourselves?
36. If some day you find yourself in conflict with the deacons and/or congregation over a theological or philosophical matter, how would you handle the situation?
37. What precautions do you take when you counsel a woman?
38. What are some of the ethical standards that you are committed to as a pastor?
39. How would you describe your attention to your personal financial matters? What is your attitude on the use of credit cards?
40. What are some of the things that you do to consciously strengthen your relationship to your wife and to your children?
41. Is there anything in your life today which would preclude our granting affirmation for your ordination?
42. Do you believe in what some refer to as the slaying of the spirit, holy laughter, and other such charismatic teaching?
43. What do you believe about the Cooperative Program, the local Association, and Missions?
44. Tell us about your personal devotional life and spiritual disciplines.
45. Would you be willing to turn in your Ordination Certificate if you became no longer qualified for this office?

A) PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Describe you and your spouse's conversion experiences.
2. Describe your call to ministry and your spouse's attitude towards your call.
3. Describe your educational/vocational preparation for ministry.

Ordination Council Agenda

Prayer

Scripture

Elect Moderator

Elect Clerk

Introduce Candidate

Allow members to give a brief witness of the Candidate.

Moderator leads questioning of the Candidate.

Prayer

Dismissal of Candidate

Vote regarding Ordination

Designate person to present recommendation to church in business meeting.

Designate person to plan Ordination Service.

Dismissal Prayer