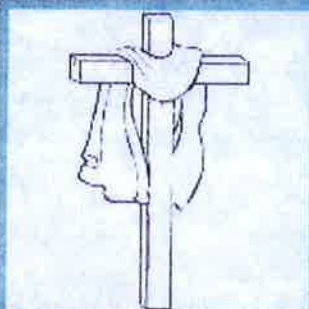


**THE SOUTHEASTERN MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
BOARD OF ORDINATION**



***Policy and Procedures
For
Ordination of Ministers***

Central Christian University

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board

Part I

John 15:16-17 *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you that ye love one another.*

"The majority of ministry and missionary activity in the early Church and Ministry was accomplished by nonprofessionals, ordinary men and women involved in secular work as their occupations." Therefore Jesus entrusted ordinary everyday people with major responsibilities of spreading the Gospel. He took fishermen from their boats, He made them fishers of men. Jesus knew that ordinary people would become extraordinary in ministry. "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called". When the Lord calls us into ministry He does not place limitations on us, we are only limited by our own imaginations.

2 Peter 1:5-7 - *Make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to your goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love."*

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Board of Ordination council on ordination is composed of Clergy and aspires to be internationally recognized as a faith based nondenominational ministry that offers everyone including the everyday hard working man or woman an opportunity to serve in the position of an ordained Minister through specific ministry programs. This Board affords ordination, ecclesiastical endorsements and certifications in a chosen field of ministry thereby allowing anyone who feels God has called them to be able to minister at some level as an Ordained Minister.

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board is to serve under the auspices of the Southeastern Christian Fellowship of Pastors and Churches and Central Christian University, for the selection and approval of qualified ministers who embrace the 'Gospel Call to be "Ordained," to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Our Mission is to ordain, qualify, equip and offer training to officially recognize those seeking legal ministry license, ordination, endorsement, and certification documentation as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board of Ordained Ministry is in charge of enlisting and recruiting ordained clergy into the process of education, training, and ordination. The Board will assess, assist, and evaluate candidates for the process."

Purpose and Objective

The Ordination Board **DOES NOT** ordain, but rather examines by questions and/or exercises as to the fitness or qualifications as set by the Local Church discipline, and/ or Central Christian University. The major purpose and objective is to recommend qualified men or women for ordination, who can help "perfect the saints for the ministry," and reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. "Ordination is the process by which individuals are consecrated, that is set apart as clergy to perform various religious rites and ceremonies."

To provide proper preparation or the respective ordination process

To review credentials of candidate

To discover theological viewpoints of candidate

To determine and affirm personal call to ministry of candidate

Procedures

A letter of recommendation, by the Pastor, Superintendent or Bishop of the candidate's local church must be received by the Ordination Board, prior to examination.

Letter of recommendation will be validated by the leadership of the local church.

The candidate for ordination will be issued an official invitation, giving time, place and procedures for the examination.

Each pastor will be given the prerequisites and levels of expectation for the candidate for ordination.

The ordination candidate will be given an oral or written examination on all predetermined levels of expectations, and may be asked to give demonstration and/or illustrations of certain procedures or ordinances.

Ordained ministry involves more than academic attainment; it calls for ongoing pastoral competence, emotional and spiritual maturity, and consistent Christian character. Therefore, candidates for ordination will complete a comprehensive career and candidacy assessment that includes a Self-Analysis Guide as well as an Individual Development Plan to be presented to the Board.

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board

Part II

What Does it Takes to Be Ordained ?

If you feel called to the ordained ministry, and you are wondering what ordained ministers have to go through, here is what ordination entails.

- Q. To be ordained, you need either a seminary degree, extensive biblical studies along with extensive Christian church as well as community experience. To be admitted to a degree program, you need to be sponsored by your denomination.

First of all you must have a conversation with your pastor. If your pastor discerns your call and is willing to support you, you'll go before a board or committee in your local church to get their support. You may need to be under the leadership /mentorship of your pastor for at least six months to one year prior to doing an initial sermon before your local church to receive a License to Preach. You must have a License to Preach! A license to preach is an expression by a local church recognizing in one of its people evidences of God's calling and gifting for ministry. It is granted upon examination and approval by that church and is issued for a defined purpose and period of time, according to the church's governing documents. A license to preach is just what it says – A License to Preach! It does not allow performance of ordination functions.

The local church recommends you to the Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board that is responsible for ordinations. The Board interviews you, and if they decide you are an eligible candidate, they may assign you a mentor, and they may require you to report to them periodically about your progress. They may also require you to be screened by a psychologist (whom they supply). Some denominations run a police report.

For some people, the process ends here. For example, the committee is likely to reject these types of people:

People who have a mystical feeling that God has chosen them and who want ordination simply as a trophy to hang on the wall. They are rejected because ministry is service to others.

People who have failed at everything in life and think that ministry is an easy job in which all they have to do is be admired and loved by a congregation. They are rejected because they are unlikely to succeed, because they do not understand what they are getting into, and because ministry is a difficult job.

People who are suffering from massive misconceptions about what ministry is. They are rejected because they don't know what they are getting into and therefore must not be called.

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board ***Part II ~ Continued***

For some people, the process ends here. For example, the committee is likely to reject these types of people:

People who are very obviously deficient in people skills. They are rejected because ministry consists almost entirely of people skills.

You need to disclose everything first to your local church and to the Ordination Board prior to or during your initial interview. If you have a personal problem that you have faced head-on and resolved and it poses no liability risk, it may not be a problem. They may see it as a character strength that you have overcome adversity.

If you make it through this part, they may appoint a mentor or a support group to guide you through the process. The committee also approves you as a seminarian. You need this approval to get into the right degree program at the seminary or to decide the necessary training you may need for ordination.

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board

Part III

Educational Requirements

Seminary

Today, most denominations require that you have a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary that is accredited by the [Association of Theological Schools](#). In special cases, they may allow other degrees, or accept your ministerial years of experience. In most cases, it is not necessary to go to a seminary that is affiliated with your denomination. However, the Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board highly recommends Central Christian University, an accredited Bible Institute for Christian Education. The courses equip you for ministry and fine-tune the gifts God has given you. By submitting to the requirements, a person demonstrates humility and servant leadership and can be recognized by the church as one who is called of God. The ordination process allows for the development of character through academic preparation in biblical, theological, and practical studies. What is important is the accreditation, not the affiliation.

Admission Requirements

To enter the Master of Divinity degree program, you will need a bachelor's degree, a satisfactory transcript from your undergraduate school, letters of recommendation, and sponsorship by your denomination's ordination authority.

The Master of Divinity Degree Program

The Master of Divinity program includes courses in the Old and New Testaments, in biblical interpretation, in preaching, in biblical languages, in the history and practice of Christian worship, in counseling, in curriculum development, in church history, in sociology, in ethics, in theology, in music or art, in preaching, and in non-profit administration, among other subjects. The degree program includes so many subject areas that you can actually declare a major!

The seminary also requires an internship, during which you work at a local church, a charity, or a chaplaincy at a hospital part-time internship. Normally, you don't get out of seminary without having some practical experience under supervision.

Unlike academic degrees, the Master of Divinity program does not require you to write and defend a thesis, but it does require you to undergo an internship and usually a practicum or two.

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board

Part III

SELF-STUDY AND PASTORAL TRAINING

The success of the gospel preaching and teaching ministry depends heavily on one's spiritual, academic, and emotional development. Acquisition of knowledge is not the sole criteria by which one should be measured, or predict, or assure, their success in the preaching and teaching ministry. However, it is the Pastor's duty and responsibilities to expose, train, and develop those persons under his/her leadership to sharpen their talents and gifts for the work of ministry.

The work and ministry of the candidate for ordination is primarily to "convince, convict, and convert" the sinner; encourage, exalt, edify, and perfect the saint for the work of ministry. Please keep in mind that the Ordination process does not qualify one to preach or teach the gospel. You were chosen in your mother's womb, before you were born. The major purpose and objective of the Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board is to recommend qualified men/women who embrace the Apostle's doctrine and polity of the Bible.

The Ordination process is to publicly state to the world that you have met the standards in Christian Character, emotional development, acquisition of Biblical knowledge, and the ability to communicate the same to others. Now, this will be proclaimed by the laying on of hands of the presbytery (elders) of the Church.

"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery." (I Tim. 4:14).

Other Things that May Occur During the Ordination Process

During the time you are in seminary, the Ordination Board responsible for ordinations may require you to undergo psychological and personality testing and to have supplemental training, such as sex-abuse training. At this point the main purpose is not to screen you, but to help you understand yourself so you can minister more effectively.

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board may require you to undergo [Clinical Pastoral Education](#). As an ordained minister, you become a minister to the community, not just your local church.

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board

Part IV

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATION

- I. **THE "CANDIDATE"** - The work and ministry of the candidate for ordination is primarily to "convince, convict, and convert" the sinner by preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. It would not be too presumptuous to assume that the candidate is "Saved, Sanctified, and Holy Ghost filled."

Qualifications of Ministers Titus 1:6-9 says: "(6) If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. (7) For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; (8) But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; (9) Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

- II. **CHRISTIAN CHARACTER** (Morality – standards – family – reputation) The Pastor must embrace the oversight in recommending candidates of solid character. He must embrace Biblical standards of Holiness.

III. **THE FINAL STAGE:**

The final interview with the Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board

1. Candidate for ordination should be extensively knowledgeable of the Catechism Questionnaire.

2. **EXAMINATION:** The examination will include:
(a. presentation of prepared statements
(b. questioning of the candidate. The local pastor can also take a leadership role in the questioning period. The council must recognize that it is called to understand the views held by the candidate, not to change them.

3. The candidate may be examined by oral and/or illustrations, demonstrations and written examination.

- a. Describe your personal spiritual journey.
- b. State your interpretation of basic Christian doctrine.
- c. Describe your spiritual gifts and ministry skills.
- d. Describe your achievement(s) in ministry.
- e. Define your difficulties and describe growing areas.
- f. Describe your vision or yourself in ministry.

4. The recording secretary will keep minutes of the council board meetings and will file records of the council's action with the local church as well as Central Christian University.

5. After all that, the candidate is ordained at a special ordination service.

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board

Part IV

Other Requirements of Becoming An Ordained Minister

There are always other means by which a candidate can become ordained. For example, you may not attend a bible college/seminary, but because of your “life experiences” — community involvement, and gifting's, you may be considered for ordination under the discretion of the Board. The Board recognizes that even though education is required, it does not negate the Holy Spirit operating in a candidate’s life. The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board may consider the following:

Satisfactory learning through the work experience

Satisfactory growth in self-understanding and in understanding the nature and work of ministry

Satisfactory competence in interpreting the Christian Gospel

Satisfactory competence in understanding the forces shaping church and society

Satisfactory competence in leading the church community.

So there are other means for ordination. You can get “ordained” through personal life experiences.

The Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board

Part V

When Can License Be Revoked?

In matters involving an ordained minister's discipline, the policy of the Southeastern Ministerial Council Ordination Board is always to seek reconciliation first. Only when that proves impossible will the Board seek other administrative solutions. As a matter of policy, the Board's first allegiance is to the people who may potentially be harmed by the ordained person.

The ordained person in question shall receive adequate notification. However, if that person refuses to appear for interviews, refuses council, refuses mail, or fails to respond to requests from the Board, Ordination Papers can be revoked. "The Licensing Board will revoke a license bestowed upon a recipient who's proven behavior as a licensed minister for any claims/acts of being a dishonest servant of God, intentionally malicious deeds, fraudulent and criminal activities, and willfully misinterpreting God's Word for personal gain without any intervention of the Judicial System by both parties."

When a license to preach is granted to an individual, it is done so by a particular Church in order for that person to make full proof of the calling that they have announced. The license ALWAYS belongs to the Church until that person undergoes ordination into the Gospel Ministry. Consequently, a Church may revoke the license to preach.

Whenever an ordination council recommends that a church should defer or not proceed with the ordination of a candidate, the following courses of action are open

(a. The church may wait until the conditions which caused the adverse recommendation change sufficiently to warrant requesting the reexamination of the candidate.

(b. Avenues of appeal are contingent upon the pastor of the local church.

Why Choose Us? - Central Christian University?



Why Students chose to attend CCU?

You can transfer credits to other Colleges

Receive training from seasoned ministers -Each program is taught from a Christian worldview with professors who consider teaching a ministry.

The standard in Bible colleges

Affordable tuition - over half the cost of other bible institutions

You will have a comprehensive support system available to aid in your success, including an assigned academic advisor

Students of all faith traditions can learn to serve and lead more effectively in local churches, parachurch organizations, institutions, and the community

Thank you for considering Central Christian University.