

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Ordination Process

A. INTRODUCTION

Information to the ordination candidate:

1. Being Christian and a member of the Evangelical Church and having successfully gone through a theological training, you are about to enter the arena of preparation for the highest calling in the world, that of a minister of the lord Jesus Christ, a steward of the household of God, a specially anointed agent of the king to advance his glorious kingdom. It is not your choice to so serve; it is God's.
2. If you really sense the calling of God, if you feel a strong desire to pursue this life, and if you desire the affirmation of the church, then if you will give evidence of that calling and readiness, it will be our high privilege to ordain you.
3. Ordination is simply a confirmation by the church of a person's (man's) call, spiritual preparedness, ministry proficiency, leadership prowess and Bible knowledge. It allows a person to earn full support of the Evangelical Church at all levels as he on embarks ministry. The reputation and impact of the Evangelical church speak to the church at large about the man's suitability for ministry.
4. Because we believe that the calling is holy and the task difficult, we desire that a person be fully readied before they are sent out. Thus the preparation for the ministry is demanding but attainable. Our lord is to be given the best we have to offer.
5. Ordination is not necessarily for a lifetime, and may be revoked. Furthermore, an ordained person, although being entrusted with the leadership responsibility for a local church, is not supposed to be a dictator. Instead he should work in close collaboration not only with the board of elders and the church board but also with the whole church.
6. Trained pastors and elders may be ordained in the Evangelical Church (*Acts 6:6; 13:3*). Ordination carries the use of the title, "Reverend".

B. ORDINATION POLICY

1. The ordination process shall be overseen by lay elders and supported by an experienced ordained pastor. The candidate's name will then be forwarded to the Board of Directors District Executive Committee and or to the District Council of which after it has thoroughly satisfied itself with the ordination eligibility of the candidate, will put his name forwarded to the National Council for further eligibility scrutiny and finally the candidate will be presented to the international Board of Elders for ordination.
2. As a matter of policy, the Evangelical Church will observe the following procedure before a candidate is ordained:
 - a) All workers who are authorized to lead a local church who have completed their studies of not less than three years, in a Bible institution which is recognized by the Evangelical Church, will be accepted for ordination after having been only recommended by the Evangelical Churches leadership approving echelons right from the local Church level to the International Board of Elders.
 - b) Believers enrolling for church work, after completing their studies in a Bible school, but have not been doing church work before, and have not been authorized for the local church leadership before, will be expected to work in a local church for a time period of one year.

C. PRE-REQUISITES FOR ORDINATION

As already alluded to, being a pastor of God's flock requires a mature, spiritual and balanced person (man). It is dangerous to place a novice in the leadership position of a local church. Therefore those who are entrusted with the responsibility to choose and recommend prospective candidates for ordination must be convinced that the one they recommend has in abundance the following characteristics;

1. CHARACTER

Without a Godly character, Christian leadership is a non starter.

- a) He must have a track record of a positive Christian influence among his fellow Christians.
- b) He must have demonstrated it for at least, four to five years, that he has what it takes to improve God's people spiritually, socially, financially, physically etc.
- c) He must have a clear record that he has never caused a church conflict at any point and any time in his local church or the church he was assigned to pastor before ordination, unless he has reconciled with those he had conflict with.

- d) He must be above reproach.
- e) Husband of one wife.
- f) Temperate – doesn't easily get heated up and sometimes over minor infringement.
- g) Diligent worker – a go getter.
- h) Temperate
- i) Respectable: does his life command respect from others?
- j) Hospitable – does he have love for people?
- k) Is he able to teach?
- l) Not given to wine – Definitely not a seeping saint.
- m) Not self willed – not stubborn but teachable.
- n) Not quick – tempered.
- o) Not pugnacious.
- p) Uncontentious.
- q) Gentle.
- r) Free from love of money.
- s) One who manages his own household well.
- t) Must have a good reputation with those outside the church.
- u) Love what is good.
- v) Trust – is trustworthy.
- w) Devout – committed to his work.
- x) Certainly not a new convert (*1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-10*).

We must know full well that Paul did not say, “Look for men with gift of Pastor, teacher or the gift of administration, or the gift of helps or the gift of exhortation”. In fact there is very little reference to ability or a skill. Rather out of the 20 qualifications listed, nineteen have to do with a man's reputation, ethics, morality, temperament, habits, spiritual and psychological maturity. And the other one has to do with his ability to lead his own family.

We must not make a debilitating error of concentrating on a man's gift as a pre-requisite for ordination. Some are of the idea that they must discover their spiritual gifts first before they can begin to serve Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, this is putting the cart before the horse. The Bible teaches that we must begin by becoming a Godly people.

2. INDISPENSABLE TOOLS FOR SERVICE IN THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

[A] The Ordination candidates are expected to be **good students of the Word**. All the Ordination candidates are required to study with understanding the Evangelical Church Constitution and Statement of Faith that is already enshrined in the Constitution referred to.

[B] Constitution

- i) Candidates should be well conversant with the constitution; for it provides an effective leadership mechanism for the entire Evangelical Church. Any person who looks down upon the Denomination's Constitution or does not accept its contents has no good reason to join the Evangelical Church, hence should not be ordained because if allowed to be part of what he doesn't subscribe to or believes in, he will only succeed in causing unnecessary friction in the Church.
- ii) All Pastors are expected to teach the Evangelical Church Constitution so that the membership is well informed on what the Church believes in and how it is run from the local Church level to the international forum.

[C] Evangelical Church Distinctives

The candidates must master the Evangelical Church Distinctives. This Denomination, like all other denominations has her own set of practices and doctrinal convictions that make her different from other Evangelicals, although fundamentally Evangelical by nature and practices.

It is a revealed secret that some of the conflicts that have succeeded in causing friction in the Church, in the past were caused by the lack of knowledge of the Evangelical Church Distinctives and outright refusal of a Pastor to embrace the Church's clear Doctrinal and clear practices.

It is therefore expected that all candidates should demonstrate a substantial knowledge of (A), (B), and (C) before they are ordained.

3. PRACTICALS

[A] Affirmation of Doctrinal Convictions

Check the appropriate space and provide additional information if applicable.

- i) I have carefully read what the Evangelical Church teaches and affirm without reservation that I am in total agreement with such teachings

YES NO

- ii) I have carefully read what the Evangelical Church teaches but have reservations about the following areas because I have not yet had the time or opportunity to study them fully for myself

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

- iii) I have carefully read what the Evangelical Church teaches and after careful personal study of the subjects still have strong reservations about the following areas

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

APPLICANT'S
SIGNATURE

DATE

[B] Ordination Applicant's Profile

**PLEASE
ATTACH
PICTURE**

Please answer the following questions thoroughly and objectively. If you have already graduated, answer only those questions that apply.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

HOME PHONE NUMBER:

WORK PHONE NUMBER:

AGE: BIRTHDATE:

SEMINARY STUDENT? YES NO

THE COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY / SCHOOL YOU GRADUATED FROM:

WHAT WAS YOUR SPECIALITY AT SCHOOL?

ARE YOU MARRIED?

IF YES, WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSE'S NAME?

CHILDREN:

NAME	AGE	BIRTHDATE	GRADE/FORM

1. When did you come to know the lord? (Give full testimony on a separate sheet) or paper

2. How long have you been in the Evangelical Church?

3. How many leadership workshops prepared by I.B.E. have that you've attended?

4. Explain your understanding of a "Call to the Ministry." What confirms that call to you?

5. What are your short and long-range goals with regard to Pastorate or Ministry?

6. What are your spiritual gifts?

7. How have your gifts manifested themselves in the Body of Christ? Explain.

8. List your previous Church affiliation? And if applicable, state why you left it and why you desired to join the Evangelical Church?

9. Who is you mentor / advisor and for how long have you known each other?

10. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

11. How will you order your priorities in the areas of Ministry and home?

12. How would you define a leader?

a) Would you consider yourself a leader?

YES NO

If yes, explain your experience in this capacity.

b) What do you consider to be your style of leadership?

c) A good leader is able to normalize any situation that would otherwise be explosive if not timeously attended to. Describe one situation in your leadership experience that challenged you but were able to normalize it.

13. Is there anything in your life (since conversion) that you feel might or would disqualify you from further ministry?

B. ORDINATION COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS

1. *In at least in one page, explain:*

(a) What salvation is?

(b) How it is received?

(c) And, its evidence in the life of the one who professes it.

2. Answer the following questions on separate sheets of paper.

- (a) Who is the Holy Spirit?
- (b) At what point of salvation does He enter a believer's life?
- (c) What is the evidence of a Spirit filled life?
- (d) What does "Baptism of the Holy Spirit Mean?"

Is it different from water baptism? If not, how do they differ?

- (e) Are all born again believers expected to speak in tongues as evidence of their salvation?
- (f) What are spiritual gifts? Name four.
- (g) What does spirit controlled life mean?
- (h) Christians are to be filled with the Holy Spirit continuously. What is the primary purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit?