

**Ministerial Ordination to the Gospel Ministry**  
**Statement of Policies and Procedures**  
First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

I. Policy

Ordination is the church's formal recognition, celebration, commissioning, and blessing of a called servant of God to the gospel ministry.

II. Procedure

In receiving the church's prayers and laying on of hands during the process of ordination, a minister receives confirmation, intercession, admonition, affirmation, and the pledge of the ongoing prayerful support within the church. This ministry to which he or she is called is global in scope, while local in expression. As such, ministerial ordination at First Baptist Church bears the mark of multiple layers of people in the process. There is both an expression of gratitude to God and a responsible encouragement of the person whom God has called. Scripture cautions us to exercise great care in the setting apart of ministers when it says, "Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands." In an effort to make ordination a significant event and to act responsibly as a church toward both the minister and the ministry, these procedures for ordination have been established:

- a. The candidate for ordination will submit to the Pastor a request for ordination
- b. The Pastor will ask the candidate to complete and submit to the pastor the *Request for Ordination* and the *Statement of Faith* forms.
- c. The Pastor will notify the Deacons that a request for ordination has been made.
- d. The Deacons will elect an ad hoc committee called the 'Deacon Ordination Review Committee'.
- e. Deacon Ordination Review Committee
  - i. Will be comprised of six (6) members
    1. The Chair of Deacons
    2. The Vice Chair of Deacons
    3. The Pastor
    4. Three additional members of the Deacon body
  - ii. The Vice Chair of Deacons will chair the Deacon Ordination Review Committee.
  - iii. A member of the Deacon Ordination Review Committee shall be elected clerk to take minutes of the proceedings. The candidate will be informed that minutes are recorded at this level and at the Ordination Council.
    1. One copy of these minutes shall be made available to the candidate; and,
    2. Another shall be filed in the church records.
  - iv. The pastor will provide copies of the candidate's *Request for Ordination* and *Statement of Faith* to the Deacon Ordination Review Committee.
  - v. The Deacon Ordination Review Committee will:
    1. Review the supplied documents.

2. Meet with the candidate at least once, with the option to meet more if so desired by the Deacon Ordination Review Committee
  3. Interview other individuals if so desired by the Deacon Ordination Review Committee. This may include, but is not limited by, individuals such as the candidate's former professors or mentors, Spiritual Director, professional colleagues, etc.
  - vi. The Deacon Ordination Review Committee will provide regular and timely updates to the larger Deacon Body.
  - vii. When the Deacon Ordination Review Committee has reached a consensus on the candidate, it will make its recommendations either at the next regularly scheduled Deacon meeting or a special called Deacons meeting if needed.
  - f. The Deacons will have the option of meeting with the candidate, if they so desire. If the Deacons approve the candidate:
    - i. Their approval will be noted in the Deacon minutes;
    - ii. The Chair of Deacons will note their approval to the congregation through its regular channels of communications.
  - g. The Ordination Council
    - i. The Pastor will appoint an Ordination Council from among the members of First Baptist Church and from sister churches. The candidate will also be able to submit to the Pastor names of individuals to serve on the Ordination Council that would be meaningful for him or her.
    - ii. The Pastor will notify the Chair of Deacons as to the names of the Ordination Council.
    - iii. Structure
      1. The Pastor or the Pastor's designee, should the Pastor be unavailable, will serve as Chair of the Ordination Council.
      2. A member of the Ordination Council shall be elected clerk to take minutes of the proceedings. One copy of these minutes shall be made available to the candidate and another shall be filed in the church records.
    - iv. The Ordination Council will:
      1. Review the recommendations of the Deacon Ordination Review Committee and supporting documentation.
      2. The Ordination Council will meet with the candidate.
      3. If the Council approves the candidate's ordination, they will vote to recommend that the church ordain the candidate.
  - h. If the church approves the candidate's ordination, they will vote to accept the recommendations of the Ordination Council and set a date for the celebration.
- II. Ordination may be sought by or for reasons including:
- a. A person who had been called to minister to First Baptist Church in any position on its pastoral staff team.
  - b. A present or past member whose ordination has been requested in writing by a sister church or institution (e.g. chaplains, campus ministers, etc.) in view of a ministry relationship with that church or institution.

- i. This person must have shown an aptness for Christian ministry,  
recognized by First Baptist Church
- c. A present or past member who grew up at First Baptist Church and has been called to serve elsewhere
- d. A person adjudged by the Pastor and the Chair of Deacons of First Baptist Church to be in an exceptional situation justifying ordination by the church.

APPENDIX I  
REQUEST FOR ORDINATION

Date of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church/Organization requesting ordination: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Job: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Education

II. Experience in Ministry

III. Church Membership

IV. Why are you seeking Ordination at this time?

## APPENDIX II OUTLINE FOR STATEMENT OF FAITH

A statement of faith is a very personal exploration and description of the relationship you have with God through Jesus Christ. Our request for your statement of faith is not intended to imply that the life of faith is black and white or easily condensed into particular categories that act independently of one another. Rather, it is placed here to help you articulate your understanding of your faith journey, and how God has moved within it. It is also used to assist the Deacon Ordination Review Committee and the Ordination Council in helping you discern your calling in relationship with the community of faith that is First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Each of these topics could yield a sermon or even a dissertation on them! No need for that. We ask that you please write your views and experiences in a paragraph or two on each the following topics:

- I. Christian Experience
- II. God
- III. Jesus
- IV. Holy Spirit
- V. Scripture
- VI. Sin/Grace
- VII. Salvation
- VIII. Church
- IX. Ordinances
- X. Evangelism
- XI. Missions & Justice
- XII. Christian Ministry

Please prepare your response in both printed and electronic format so that it may be shared with the members of the review bodies.