

# ORDINATION IN THE



Ministerial credentials are conferred through ordination, through which individuals are set apart for service unto God. Ordination is a denominational affirmation of personal character, ministry competences, and pastoral calling. It provides recognition and accountability by the EFCS without conferring special powers or privileges.

## Why We Ordain

God appoints a person to ministry, not the person himself or herself. This appointment is also recognized and affirmed by the local church, the Body of Christ. Ordination is therefore the communal recognition and affirmation of proven ministry and one's calling by God to serve Him in the pastoral ministry. While ordination confers no special powers, it represents the confirmation of one's calling and provides recognition and accountability within a larger Body.

## Criteria for Ordination

1. Personal Criteria
  - a. Godly character and competence according to the leadership standards in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
2. Organizational Criteria
  - a. Possesses recognized theological education.
  - b. Serving in pastoral ministry for at least 3 years.
  - c. Recommended by both the senior pastor and chairman of the local church.<sup>1</sup>
  - d. Written and defended an ordination paper on a pertinent matter within the EFCS.<sup>2</sup>
  - e. Passed an interview conducted by the Ordination Council which comprises:
    - i. Senior pastor / chairman
    - ii. EFCS chairman / vice-chairman
    - iii. Recognized external senior pastor / theological auditor<sup>3</sup>
    - iv. And any other specialists as necessary as determined the Ordination Council

## Revocation of Ordination

A minister's ordination may be revoked by the EFCS in cases of moral or doctrinal failure as set out in the Scriptures.

It is not revoked when one leaves the Evangelical Free Church denomination, as the recognition of one's calling and pastoral stature continues. Whether a church or another denomination recognizes the ordination of the EFCS is a separate matter.

## **Application and Approval Process**

1. Senior pastor discusses ordination with the potential candidate.
  - a. Subject of the ordination paper is confirmed.
  - b. EFCS Chairman is informed of the planned timeline.
2. Candidate submits formal application to the EFCS chairman consisting of:
  - a. Application form, resume, call to ministry testimony.
  - b. Recommendation by the senior pastor.
  - c. Ordination paper.
3. Senior pastor forms the Ordination Council and distributes materials of candidate.
4. Ordination Council interview is conducted and approval is granted.
5. Upon successful interview, the senior pastor arranges an Ordination Service and informs the National Board. The ordination service typically comprises:
  - a. Candidate and family members
  - b. Church pastors and congregation
  - c. Ordination Council members
  - d. National Board members

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<sup>1</sup> When the senior pastor is the ordination candidate, the church chairman will submit a recommendation.

<sup>2</sup> Topic determined by senior pastor and candidate; accepted by the EFCS chairman.

<sup>3</sup> Proposed by candidate and accepted by the senior pastor and the EFCS chairman.