

NAB SOCIAL ORDINATION PROCEDURES

PREPARED NOVEMBER 13, 2008

1. The ordination candidate shall prepare an ordination paper to be presented at his ordination council. Generally speaking this paper will be approximately 10-15 pages long. This ordination paper shall include the following:
 - Brief Personal History
 - Testimony of Conversion
 - Testimony of Call to Ministry
 - Ministry Experience
 - Statement of Faith

2. The Statement of Faith should cover all of the major areas of theology listed below. In each area candidates should strive to give simple but clear explanation of their beliefs. The candidate should include ample scriptural support for each statement.
 - Bibliology
 - Theology Proper
 - Christology
 - Pneumatology
 - Soteriology
 - Hamartiology
 - Anthropology
 - Angelology
 - Ecclesiology
 - Eschatology

3. Upon finishing the ordination paper the candidate will contact the Regional Minister who will then set up a meeting with a screening committee of 2-3 reviewers. The purpose of the screening committee will be to review the ordination candidate's ordination paper for adequate preparation. The committee will also seek to coach the candidate in preparation for the ordination council meeting. Following satisfactory review, the screening committee will recommend to the ordaining church that they proceed with the call of an ordination council.

4. The ordaining church will then call for an ordination council. ***The call for ordination council should be sent out no later than four weeks prior to the date of the council so as to allow ample time for attending pastors to***

arrange their schedules accordingly. This council should be made up of predominantly NAB SoCal ordained pastors and appointed elders. The candidate may also feel free to invite guest participants such as seminary professors or other pastors that have an important part in the spiritual development of the candidate.

5. The council will be convened on the appointed date and will proceed to examine the candidate in all areas of the ordination document plus any other areas of biblical knowledge and ministry experience the council may deem as important. The council will begin by appointing both a moderator and a clerk. The moderator will then ask for a motion that this meeting be convened as an ordination council to examine the candidate. Upon approval he will open in prayer. Following prayer, the moderator will ask the candidate to read one section of the document at a time followed by the council members asking questions of the candidate pertaining to the section read. This will continue with each section until the paper has been completely read and examined by the council. Under most circumstances, the ordination council examination will take approximately 2-2 ½ hours.

When the council has finished examining the candidate it will enter into executive session. The council will discuss the candidate's fitness for ordination. Approval or non-approval of the candidate will then be voted upon and the decision of the council made in writing to the candidate's church. Generally verbal notification of the council's decision is given to the candidate following the council's vote. ***If approved the council will recommend that the candidate's church proceed with ordination.*** The church may then proceed with the scheduling of an ordination service. ***It is recommended that the church not schedule the service until after the council decision so as not to place the council under undue pressure to approve the candidate.***

The secretary at the ordination council will insure that all participants at the council meeting are duly noted in the minutes of the examination meeting. The moderator and the secretary will sign the minutes and then give a copy of the minutes to the ordaining church. A copy of the minutes should also be given to the Regional Minister who will forward the council minutes to the NAB Conference office.

6. The candidate's ordaining church will then schedule an ordination service for the purpose of ordaining the candidate. The order of the ordination service and the participants is left to the desire and discretion of the ordaining church. Ordinarily the ordination service should include the following as part of the service:

- Reading of the minutes from the Ordination Council
- Charge to the Candidate (a brief charge brought by an ordained minister)

- Charge to the Church (optional but usually appropriate)
 - Reading of Scriptures
 - Ordination Sermon (to be preached by someone of the ordination candidate's choosing...the ordination candidate may bring the message himself if so desired)
 - Laying on of Hands Upon the Candidate (All ordained men and Elders in the church come forward as the candidate kneels; the men lay hands upon the candidate and prayer is offered as the ordination candidate is ordained to the Gospel Ministry)
 - Presentation of a Bible (this is optional but often observed with special inscription inside commemorating the ordination)
7. Ordination certificates may be obtained from the Regional Minister or from NAB offices in Oakbrook Terrace, IL.