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# Deacon Ordination Recommendations

## SECTION ONE

### Biblical Foundation

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The two offices of the New Testament Church are Pastors and Deacons. The purpose of ordination for the individual is the signifying of the sense of calling by God and the individual's committing of their life to a particular ministry. For the local congregation it is the acknowledgement, approval and authorization for the individual to serve the church in ministry.

In the New Testament there is no prescribed procedure for the service of ordination other than what is depicted in Acts 6. It was something the congregation was called upon to do, rather than an appointment by an individual or group. The church was charged with selecting men whose walk with the Lord was respected, wise and demonstrated by lifestyle that they were full of the Holy Spirit. The one particular thing that stands out ceremonially is the laying on of hands.

Ordination is (1) a function of the local church, (2) an open and public service, (3) consists of the laying on of hands, and (4) is for deacons and ministers of the gospel. Beyond these four things, each church is free to develop their own services of ordination. Traditionally, the ordination service consists of two parts: the convening of the ordaining council and the ordination service. This is true for the ordination of deacons and ministers.

## SECTION TWO

### The Deacon Ordaining Council

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Based upon the desires of the church, the ordaining council is composed of ordained deacons and possibly ministers from various churches, which convene for the purpose of ordaining an individual or individuals to the deacon ministry. The council will convene prior to the service of ordination. The floor will be open for those present to ask questions regarding the candidate's spiritual maturity and understanding of basic beliefs.

#### RECOMMENDED QUESTIONS

1. Tell your conversion experience.
2. Tell us about your personal devotional life. How do you spend time with the Lord in His Word and in prayer, and what is He teaching you right now?
3. Where are you currently serving in the church?
4. What is the role and responsibilities of the deacon?
5. What do you believe about the Bible?
6. What is the mission of the Church?
7. What do you believe about salvation and personal witnessing?
8. Tell an experience you had of leading a person to Christ.
9. Where does the church receive its support for ministry?
10. What does the Bible say about stewardship?
11. How does your wife feel about the ministry of the deacon?
12. If this council should choose to not ordain you, how would that affect you?

After the council has asked their desired questions, the candidate should be excused while the council prepares their recommendation. A Certificate of Ordination should be signed by each participant of the Ordaining Council.

#### A WORD OF PRACTICAL WISDOM

Many churches schedule the Ordination Council and the Ordination Service on the same Sunday afternoon for convenience. Therefore, it is important that the council be fairly certain about the fitness of the individual to serve prior to scheduling. If an issue of uncertainty were to arise in the council, leading to not moving forward with ordination, this could cause unnecessary embarrassment to the candidate and his family. Some churches choose to avoid this by scheduling the ordination council on a different Sunday than the ordination service, creating a buffer in case something comes up in the council that would pause or prevent ordination.

#### SECTION THREE

### Sample Ordination Service

An order of service a church may follow or adapt. Each church remains free to shape the service in a way that fits its own life and tradition.

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| 01 | Hymn or Song of Dedication                            |
| 02 | Prayer                                                |
| 03 | Welcome and Introductions                             |
| 04 | Introduction of the Candidate(s)                      |
| 05 | Testimony by Each Candidate                           |
| 06 | Recommendation of the Ordaining Council               |
| 07 | Vote by the Church on the Recommendation to Ordain    |
| 08 | Special Music                                         |
| 09 | Charge to the Candidate and Challenge to the Church   |
| 10 | Laying on of Hands                                    |
| 11 | Prayer of Dedication                                  |
| 12 | Presentation of Signed Ordination Certificate         |
| 13 | Closing Prayer                                        |
| 14 | Reception to Follow Honoring the Deacon(s) and Family |

#### STRONGER TOGETHER

If your church is preparing for an ordination and would like help convening a council or locating ordained deacons and ministers from sister churches, the association is glad to assist. Reach out to us at [chiltonbaptist.online](http://chiltonbaptist.online).