



PROTOCOL FOR ORDINATION IN NWMC

March 2012

Ordination is a special status of recognition given by the Conference upon those who are recognized by character and leadership as bearing the call of God upon their lives for lifetime Christian Ministry. In contrast to pastoral installation in which the Conference recognizes and affirms the call of the local church to a pastor to serve at a specific place and time, ordination is the spiritual discernment by the larger Conference Body of a pastor's lifetime call and gifting for ministry, hence it is not for a novice, not local, nor is it repeatable. Ordination is more about the recognition by the Conference of a person's humble and effective service for Christ in the church than about a person's gain of religious status.

1. The ordination candidate must be presently installed in and serving as a pastor in NWMC.
2. The ordination candidate must not be a novice, but have several years of effective and proven pastoral experience and be in good standing in the NWMC.
3. The ordination candidate must be biblically literate and theologically mature, having a thorough knowledge of Scripture, with a clearly expressed theology anchored in Scripture.
4. The candidate must be recommended for ordination at three levels: by the congregation, by the Conference Board and by the personal desire and conviction of the applicant.
5. The candidate for ordination must demonstrate Christian maturity in home life, in personal ethical choices, and in financial stewardship. In every way the pastor's life reveals a sacrificial service to the church of Christ in the spirit of Christ. Ordination is a promise of faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to His Church and to the Conference which does the ordaining.
6. Ordination within the NWMC is the recognition of a lifetime calling of God upon a person's life for pastoral ministry. Ordination is not location specific, nor is it repeatable.
7. Ordination is limited to specific qualified individuals and hence it implies a chosen status. The Church looks to ordained pastors as models and examples of godly leadership and service.
8. Ordination is meaningless if it is not accompanied by accountability to the ordaining Body. It makes no sense to ordain someone who is not committed to faithful support of the Conference. This means that there must be loyalty to the NWMC on the part of ordination candidate.

9. It is the prerogative of the Conference to remove the Ordained Status of a pastor who proves him/herself unsuitable in lifestyle, theology or practice from accepted pastoral standards of the NWMC. We expect our pastors to affirm the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

10. The Ordination Process:

Ordination of a pastor may be initiated by the Conference Board or by the board of a local church.

- a) The church seeking the ordination of its pastor sends a formal letter of request to the Board of the NWMC.
- b) The pastor completes and returns the Ordination Candidate Application form to the Conference Board.
- c) The pastor to be ordained is interviewed orally by Conference leaders. The Conference Pastor, the Chairperson of the requesting congregation and the Conference Moderator (or his designate), form the interviewing committee.
- d) Upon approval by the Conference Board a date is set for the Service of Ordination. At this service, the Conference presents the pastor with the Certificate of Ordination stamped with the Seal of the Conference.