

Ordination Examination Training

First Fellowship Baptist Church
Wallburg, NC
January 29, 2006

Facilitated by Dr. Larry Hovis, Coordinator
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Welcome, Introductions, Prayer

Scripture Study

God's Call to Service - Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11; John 15:16 ("ordain" in KJV);
Laying on of Hands – Acts 6:6; Acts 13:3; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6;
Bishops/elders – Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1-7

History of Ordination in Christian and Baptist Tradition

New Testament era – setting apart through laying on of hands
End of NTE until Reformation – Clerical hierarchy
Reformation – Priesthood of all Believers
Early Baptists – did not use term "ordination," but eventually did use the term, always careful to state that is a recognition of the call of God to exercise ministerial servant-leadership without lording over the congregation, no special spiritual status

Key Elements of Baptist Ordination Examination

Personal Experience with Christ – conversion experience, call to ministry, influential persons and circumstances, education
Confession of faith – key questions such as God, humanity, person and work of Christ, Scripture, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things, etc.
Baptist Ministry – Baptist principles and distinctives, ministerial experience, gifts for ministry, plans for future ministry

A one-question approach – "Prepare a ministry statement which addresses the following issues: your personal spiritual journey, including your conversion to Christ and call to Christian ministry; your confession of faith, including a statement of your interpretation of basic Christian doctrine; Baptist principles; your spiritual gifts and ministry skills; your difficulties and achievements in ministry; the role of the pastor in a Baptist church; your vision for yourself in ministry and for the church."

Agenda for Ordination Examination Process

Develop Questions for Candidate (tonight)
Submit Questions for Candidate
Receive Responses from Candidate – Share with church members and representatives from other churches
Schedule and Conduct Ordination Examination – Examination would involve church members and guests asking questions of candidate, primarily to clarify or amplify written responses
Schedule and Conduct Ordination Service

Plan for moving forward – making assignments

Closing Prayer