

Ordination & Installation Process

In Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) life, churches — not associations, nor state conventions, nor the denomination — ordain men to confirm God's call to the "gospel ministry" as an "ordained minister," and sometimes additionally install them as their local church "pastor." Similarly, SBC churches also ordain people as elders and deacons, or sometimes "commission" men and women to missions and ministry roles.

Ordaining a candidate sets them apart as a "minister of the gospel" in general, and it is typically done by the candidate's home church. **Installing** a pastor occurs at a host church when they are calling someone to pastor in their own church. Sometimes a church will do both. Whatever the case, it is the church's privilege and responsibility to authenticate God's call of the candidate as a focused and faithful representative of God Himself. Regarding ordination, the first step will be to assemble an Ordination Council.

Ordination Council.

- 1 This council is formed by the host church leadership as they issue invitations to any of their own church leaders and area pastors and/or denominational reps of their choosing (5 to 15 is a good number).
- 2 They will interview the candidate regarding his conversion, call to ministry, personal growth, theological views, vision for ministry, etc., in a 1 to 2 hour gathering. (See page 2 for a sample questionnaire)
- 3 Following the Q & A's, the candidate leaves the room for the council to vote their approval or not, then call the candidate back in to share the result. If positive, plans are made and a date set for a **Ordination Service** as a "minister" in general, and/or an **Installation Service** as their own local pastor.

Ordination and/or Installation Service

Prelude & Gathering song (plus special music throughout service)

Opening Prayer & Welcome

Official Recommendation of Candidate (or Pastor)
by **Representative of the Ordination Council** (or Pastor Search Team)
(may also recognize council members by asking them to stand)

Introduction of the Candidate (or Pastor) and Family

Testimony of the Candidate (or Pastor) (5 min. or so)
(with emphasis on conversion and call to ministry)

Official Call for Affirmation by the Church (Vote)

Celebrative Song of Affirmation

Charge to the candidate (15 min. or so)

Season of Prayer & Laying on of Hands

(Candidate seated/Pastor in front, facing congregation.
Ordained ministers and deacons file by to individually, quietly,
and briefly pray over him. Meditative background music being played)

Presentation of Ordination Certificate (not for Installation Service)
(and other possible gifts like commemorative Bible, flowers to wife, etc.)

Final Prayer & Presentation as an Ordained Minister (or New Pastor)

Ordination Certificate. This is prepared in advance by church leadership, signed by the Ordination Council, then presented to the candidate (with or without a frame) during a service as described above. Blank certificates may be purchased or we can create a customized version for you here in our offices. []