

## Ordination & Installation Process

In Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) life, churches — not associations, nor state conventions, nor the denomination — ordain and install men called by God to the gospel ministry and/or the office of deacon or elder. Similarly, SBC churches 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 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 The pastor or church invites a candidate for ordination to be interviewed by their local Director of Missions, ordained ministers and/or deacons from churches in the area that the pastor has invited.
- 2 They will interview the candidate regarding his conversion, call to ministry, personal growth, theological views, vision for ministry, etc. (See attached sample questionnaire)
- 3 Following the Q & A's, the candidate leaves the room for the council to vote their approval or not, and call the candidate back in to share the result. If positive, plans are made and a date set for a **Ordination Service** as a pastor in general, and/or an **Installation Service** as this local church 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 to be signed by members of the Ordination Council, and presented to the candidate (with or without a frame) as indicated above. Blank certificates may be purchased or we can create a personal version for you here in our offices. []