



Community of Christ

RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDINATION FORM

I Recommend _____ Membership Number _____

For Ordination to the Office of _____

Candidate's Residence _____

Currently Enrolled in Congregation _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex _____ Vocation _____

Approximate Number of Years as: Church Member _____ Priesthood _____

Any previous priesthood offices held _____

Marital status: Married _____ Approximate number of years: _____ Single _____

Check if candidate has to your knowledge ever been: Widowed _____ Divorced _____

Spouse is member of: Community of Christ _____ Other Church or Faith _____ None _____

Spouse will be comfortable with this call: Highly _____ Fairly _____ Little _____

Education (Show Graduation or Degree, or Number of Years attended):

Elementary _____ High School _____

College Years _____

Postgraduate Work _____

Other Training _____

Further training needed for this office: Extensive _____ Moderate _____ Little _____

As pastor (or other appropriate administrative officer), I present this recommendation as my own serious conviction of this call.

Signature _____

Official Capacity _____

Congregation _____ Date _____

APPROVED BY:

Mission Center President _____ Date _____

NOTE: This call should be discussed only with proper administrative officers or others who will not share confidential information. Send this form to the mission center president. DO NOT APPROACH THE CANDIDATE ABOUT THE CALL UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED CLEARANCE TO DO SO.

Conviction concerning the candidate's call came to me as pastor/mission center president in this manner (general conviction, any special feelings or experiences):

Priesthood Standards and Qualifications

(To be completed by officer initiating the call and also to be used when the candidate is approached about the call.)

The following qualities and factors should be considered when reviewing the history and call of the candidate. Be sensitive to anything that might be a problem in acceptance or ministry of the candidate. Make a brief notation, or if necessary, explain on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Do you have a conviction that this person is being called to priesthood function in the Community of Christ?
2. What are the gifts and potential for ministry evident in this person's life for immediate and long-term ministry? How do they relate to a calling of a specific office?
3. Is there need in the congregation or in other church settings for this person's ministry?
4. How will this ordination affect the balance of ministry according to priesthood offices in the congregation?
5. Is this person affirmative in testimony and positive in support of all levels of church life: congregation, mission center, and World Church?
6. Is this person's life currently "in order" in regard to personal relationships, morality, response to the principles of personal stewardship and finances?
7. If the person has been divorced, has inquiry been made regarding the circumstances?
8. Does this candidate exhibit good stewardship of health and hold high standards of behavior, avoiding the abuse of chemical substances and refraining from the use of alcohol and tobacco?

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9. Does the candidate actively support the church to the best of his or her ability in terms of attendance, worldwide ministries and local contributions, and responsiveness to the principle of financial accounting?

10. Does the candidate evidence a positive attitude toward study, personal improvement, and spiritual growth?

11. If this person has been involved in any conduct which could reflect negatively on her or his ability to minister, have you counseled with the mission center president to determine if this should be a factor in processing this recommendation?

12. Is the candidate's appearance and manner of dress acceptable to the congregation?

13. Does the candidate enjoy adequate health to fulfill the demands of the office?

14. What is the reaction of your counselors to this call?

15. What will be the likely reaction of the people assembled in legislative session of conference to this call?

16. What will be the likely reaction of the spouse and other members of the candidate's family to this call?

17. Please share how the ministry of this person can be related to the congregation's ministry to its members in terms of: "A Disciple's Generous Response," and the Mission Initiatives.

18. Please list persons who could serve as a potential mentor to this person.

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Information for the Pastor or Other Calling Officer

1. This form is to be completed by the administrative officer initiating the call of a person to priesthood. On completion, it should be forwarded to the mission center president for further consideration and approval. You are not to approach the candidate about the call until the mission center president's approval has been obtained, and you have been notified to discuss the call with the candidate.
2. An indication of divine call is *required*. Having said this, it should be understood that your experience as initiating officer need not be dramatic or completely without question on your part.

You are to use your best judgment—not only concerning the spiritual experience regarding the call, but on every aspect that might affect ordination. That is, you are to take a "wholistic" approach to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. You will *not* be asked to "defend" your discernment of the call, simply to share it.
3. Confirmation of the call (from a second person in the congregation sensing the divine intent) is appropriate but not mandatory.
4. If you sense the call, but are unclear as to the office, contact the mission center president for further counsel.
5. As the initiating officer regarding this call, you are part of a team that will determine proceeding forward to ordination. You should see yourself as a member of that team, rather than strictly the proponent of this particular call. Our system relies on the Holy Spirit working through the administrative officers of the church to discern the divinity of the call, to identify the candidate's strengths and weaknesses, the needs for ministry, etc. The strength of this system is in gaining a number of perspectives. It is possible that on occasion the mission center president will evaluate the situation differently, in which case this form will be returned to you for further consultation to occur. Your integrity is fulfilled by initiating the recommendation for ordination, in response to the light you have received.
6. There are a number of considerations for ordination: acceptance of his or her ministry by the people, personal standards to be met, the need for the candidate's ministry in a priesthood capacity, and ultimately the readiness of the candidate.
7. Personal standards should be met before ordination, as well as to retain a priesthood license. These include stewardship compliance, continued training, and standards of personal conduct (see the statement of Priesthood Standards and Qualifications printed on this form.)
8. If you have felt moved to process a call, but you know the candidate does not meet some of the priesthood standards, first give ministry to the person in the area of inadequacy, obtaining some response without revealing a specific call. If your conviction of the call persists, you should process the call with a notation explaining the deficiency, ministry given, and the candidate's response. But a specific call should at no time be shared with the candidate before the approval by the mission center president. After approval of the mission center president, the candidate may be approached about the call, and encouraged to meet the standards. If the candidate subsequently meets all the standards and the congregation has approved ordination by a formal vote of the congregation at a congregation conference, ordination can proceed.
9. *After* approval for candidacy is given by the church and you are notified to proceed, you as the initiating officer may approach the candidate. The candidate should be informed of your role in the process, and that the mission center president's approval has been obtained. You should review with the candidate: The Priesthood Standards and Qualifications, a plan for Service requirement, and the Pre-Ordination Temple School courses requirements. (It may be at this time that you become aware of personal standards which are not being met.)
10. The candidate should give prayerful consideration before accepting the call, realizing the commitment to training and the service which the call requires. While the candidate may want personal validation of the call, this is not strictly necessary. You might encourage the candidate to weigh all considerations—the needs of the church for ministry which he or she can give; the time demands for preparation; and the skills, talents, and gifts which the candidate possesses, together with his or her sense of being called.
11. If the candidate has questions regarding the office, the standards, or the timing of ordination, you should feel free to contact the mission center president to help answer such questions. You can also expect help from the mission center president to establish the Plan for Ministry.

Send this form to the mission center president. Do not approach the candidate about the call until you have received clearance to do so.