

Chinese Bible Missions Church of Los Angeles Ordination and Commissioning Policy for Ministers

Definition and Basis

Commissioning is the formal act of installing or sending an individual (whether he or she is ordained) to either the Gospel ministry, or other ministry positions such as a missionary, etc. It is an act of public recognition at which the individual is set aside for the particular ministry. Some examples of commissioning include: the formal service of installation of a pastor, the setting aside of a person for a campus ministry, or the sending out of a missionary into a particular field of service.

In general, CBMC will first commission a pastor and then ordain him/her at a later time. If a pastor was ordained by another church or denomination, it is up to the Board of Elders to recognize his ordination. A commissioned pastor of CBMC is given the authorities to (1) administer sacraments, (2) conduct worship, and (3) preach the Word of God. In terms of the State's interests, it qualifies that person to perform and certify marriages. For tax purposes, it makes that person eligible for ministerial tax treatment.

Ordination is to further recognize and announce publicly what God has already accomplished in calling a person to the Gospel Ministry as a pastor. Ordination is the action of our congregation to confirm the person's eligibility for this ministry and acknowledge the Holy Spirit's calling of that person. Through ordination, we demonstrate our confidence in the person and accept responsibility for the candidate's specific ministry. Yet, ordination of a person does not necessarily result in promotion or high ranking in ministry.

Both ordination and commissioning follow the pattern seen in Acts wherein the congregation and its leaders selected various people to accept and accomplish special ministries of leadership and mission. Examples of the ordination procedure can be seen in Acts 6:1-4; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:23; II Timothy 1:6.

CBMC will commission but will not ordain woman ministers at this time.

Requirements for Commissioning

- The candidate must affirm Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior.
- The candidate must have demonstrated spiritual and general maturity and must not be a new believer. (Hebrews 5:12-14; Ephesians 4:13-15; I Timothy 3:6).
- The candidate must have demonstrated quality of character and life as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Galatians 5:22-23.
- The candidate must complete a Bachelor degree in theological education and submit an official transcript.
- The candidate must serve full time in CBMC for at least three months.
- The candidate must be a core member of CBMC and willing to abide by the core member covenant (See Appendix 1).
- The candidate must agree to CBMC's Statement of Faith.
- The candidate must be willing to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, and other polices of CBMC.
- The candidate must pass the criminal background check.

Requirements for Ordination

All of the requirements for commissioning plus:

- The candidate must have demonstrated proficiency, faithfulness, integrity, and fruitfulness in ministry as evidenced by positive changes and effects in the lives of those the candidate ministered to and/or by other specific accomplishments. (John 15:16; Matthew 7:17-20).
- The candidate must have demonstrated both possession and proper use of spiritual gifts and abilities consistent with his specific ministry (I Corinthians 12:1-11; Ephesians 4-11; Romans 12:6).
- The candidate must have a minimum of three-year full time ministry experience and minimum one year at CBMC at the time of ordination.
- The candidate must confirm his calling to CBMC and not elsewhere.

Process of Commissioning

1. The BOE identifies the commissioning candidate.
2. The candidate submits to the BOE (1) his/her resume, (2) two references (See Appendix 2), one must be written by the most recent supervisor, and (3) an essay describing his/her faith journey and calling to full time ministry.
3. The BOE reviews the information submitted and interviews the candidate to determine if he/she meets the above requirements.
4. The BOE approves and schedules the commissioning.

Process of Ordination

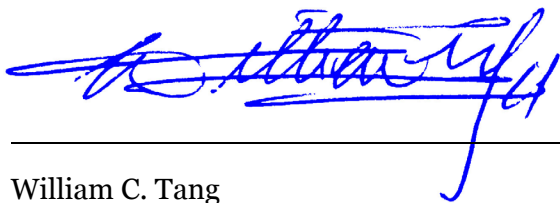
1. The BOE identifies the ordination candidate.
2. The BOE appoints members to form an Ordination Committee. The Ordination Committee must have a minimum of 3 members – an ordained pastor (usually the senior pastor), a lay elder, and a lay leader (deacon or head coach). Exception can be made by the BOE.
3. The Ordination Committee meets with the candidate to go over the ordination process.
4. The candidate submits to the Ordination Committee (1) his resume, (2) two references (See Appendix 2), one must be written by the most recent supervisor, (3) an essay describing his faith journey and calling to full time ministry, and (4) ordination paper (See Appendix 3).
5. The Ordination Committee continues to meet with the candidate to determine if all the requirements are fulfilled
6. The Ordination Committee makes recommendation to the BOE for approval.
7. The BOE approves and recommends the candidate to the core members for affirmation in a core membership meeting.
8. The BOE schedules the ordination.

The ordination process should be no less than three months and not longer than 5 months. Before any ordination is carried out, there shall be careful, unhurried, and prayerful examination of the candidates as to their fitness for the work of the ministry. The results of their labor should be reviewed, and the examination should cover the great fundamental facts of the gospel. In addition to the above requirements, he should have given satisfactory evidence of:

- a. A call to the ministry as a lifework,
- b. His belief in and knowledge of the Scriptures,

- c. His acquaintance with and full acceptance of the vital truths we believe we are called to proclaim to the world,
- d. Experience in various kinds of ministerial responsibility,
- e. Entire consecration of body, soul, and spirit,
- f. Spiritual stability,
- g. Social maturity,
- h. Aptness as a teacher of truth,
- i. Ability to lead souls from sin into holiness,
- j. Fruitage in souls won to Christ,
- k. A cooperative attitude and confidence in the organization and functioning of the church,
- l. A life of consistent exemplary Christian conduct,
- m. An exemplary family.

Approved by the Board of Elders



William C. Tang
Deputy Chair

October 20, 2008

Covenant for the Core Membership of
Chinese Bible Missions Church of Los Angeles

- 1) I will maintain the unity of the church (Romans 14:9; I Peter 1:22; Ephesians 4:29; Hebrews 13:17) by
 - ✧ Relating to other members with love,
 - ✧ Not spreading rumors,
 - ✧ Following the direction of the church in submission to the church leadership, and
 - ✧ Submitting to the policy of church discipline.

- 2) I will share the responsibilities of the church (I Thessalonians 1:1–2; Luke 14:23; Romans 15:7) by
 - ✧ Praying for the growth of the church,
 - ✧ Inviting non-believer friends to attend small group meetings, and taking care of them,
 - ✧ Greeting and welcoming visitors warmly, and
 - ✧ Tithing and making free-will offerings gladly according to Scriptural teachings.

- 3) I will participate in the ministries of the church (I Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:11–12; Philippians 2:3–4, 7) by
 - ✧ Discovering my spiritual gifts and talents, and serving in appropriate ministries, and
 - ✧ Allowing the pastors and coaches to equip me for service.

- 4) I will seek growth in the life of discipleship diligently (Hebrews 10:25; Philippians 1:27; I Corinthians 16:2; Leviticus 27:30) by
 - ✧ Faithfully attending meetings including the small group meetings, Sunday worship services, Sunday school classes and prayer meetings,
 - ✧ Living a Christ-centered Christian life,
 - ✧ Doing devotion and praying regularly with intention to observe the teachings and principles of the Scripture,
 - ✧ Receiving discipleship training, and
 - ✧ Nurturing the attitude of servant-hood.

I pledge to follow the above items. My core-membership may be terminated by the judgment of the Board of Elders or by my own withdrawal.

My Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____

Appendix 2

**Chinese Bible Missions Church of Los Angeles
Request for Reference Form**

Applicant _____ Date _____

Name of Reference _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please respond to the following areas of concern, and return to the address at the end of this form within two weeks of the above date. Thank you.

1. How long have you known the applicant, and in what roles or relationships?

2. Describe the applicant's strengths.

3. Describe perceived weaknesses.

4. Describe the applicant's history of establishing and maintaining effective, healthy relationships?

5. From your observation, describe ways the applicant responds to conflict. Give examples if possible.

6. Explain why you would or would not select this person to be the pastor of your home church, if the choice were yours.

7. Describe any concerns about ethical misconduct related to this person (financial, sexual, personal, ministerial, etc.).

8. Is there any other information of which the Ordination Committee should be made aware?

Please do not return this form to the applicant but send directly to:

Chinese Bible Missions Church
Attention: Chairman of the Board of Elders
200 W Commonwealth Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91801

Appendix 3

Chinese Bible Missions Church of Los Angeles Guidelines for Ordination Paper

Purpose of the Paper

The ordination paper is a major reflection on theological and ecclesiastical ideas and how they relate to your life and ministry. This paper is not intended to be an exclusively academic paper, though it definitely requires theological reflection. This paper is a tool that will enable the Ordination Committee understand your theological process. It is also intended as a tool to help you integrate theology and doctrine in your life and ministry, including how these inform and shape your own spiritual formation and practices. It is not, however, a restatement of your personal faith history.

Introduction

A brief description of the ways you relate to the identity and diversity of CBMC.

Christian Doctrine and Practice as They Relate to Your Life and Ministry

The Person of God

The Person of Jesus Christ

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Humanity and Sin

Salvation—The Nature of the Gospel

View of Scripture

The Christian Hope—The Meanings of Death and Eternal Life

Christian Eschatology

The Doctrine of the Church as It Relates to Your Life and Ministry

Mission of the Church

Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Ecumenical Aspects of the Church

Place of the Church in History

Purpose and Place of the Church in Today's World

The Role of the Minister

The Ministry of the Laity

Theology and Practice of Worship

Relationships with the Wider Body of Christ

Describe how you understand your relationship as a minister and the role of the local church in relationship to CBMC, other Local Churches, and parachurch organizations.

Conclusion

Theology of Family of Origin, Current Family and/or Significant Relationships

In conclusion, write a section on how the above reflections inform and shape a holistic theology of your greater family. We recognize that "traditional nuclear family" is often not the current norm. Please reflect on your theology out of your own context.