

Chinese Bible Missions Church of Los Angeles Ordination Policy for Elders

Definition and Basis

Ordination is the formal act of recognizing and announcing publicly what God has accomplished in calling a person to the Gospel Ministry as an elder. 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.

An ordained elder of CBMC is given the authority to (1) administer sacraments, (2) conduct worship, (3) preach the Word of God, and (4) serve as a ruling elder in the Board of Elders. If a person was ordained by another church or denomination, it is up to the Board of Elder to accept his ordination. CBMC will not ordain woman elder at this time.

Ordination follows 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.

Requirements for Ordination

- 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 regularly attend CBMC for at least three years.
- 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 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 confirm his calling to CBMC and not elsewhere.

Process of Ordination

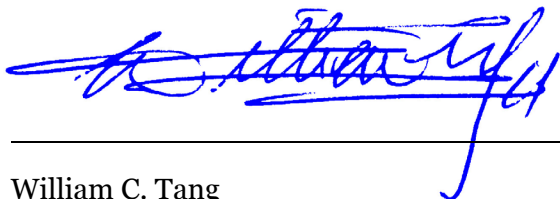
1. The BOE identifies the ordination candidate.
2. The BOE appoints members to form an Ordination Committee. The Ordination Committee must have a minimum of 3 members – an ordained CBMC pastor (usually the senior pastor), a lay elder, and a lay leader (deacon or head coach). Exception can be made by the BOE.

3. The Ordination Committee meets with the candidate to determine if all the requirements are fulfilled
4. The Ordination Committee makes recommendation to the BOE for approval.
5. The BOE approves and recommends the candidate to the core members for affirmation in a core membership meeting.
6. 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 with or without a secular profession,
- 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

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