



How to Ordain a Deacon

Ordination is setting apart one who has responded to God's call to the gospel ministry. Although exact steps and procedures vary according to local custom, here are some basics.

A candidate for the ministry is usually licensed by his church soon after he indicates that God has called him into the ministry. The licensing is the church's tentative approval for a man to serve until he has proved himself qualified for ordination.

Ordination usually takes place when a minister begins serving in a church. The ordination may be at the candidate's church of service or home church.

The church will set an appropriate date and authorize forming an ordination council to examine the candidate as to this fitness for ordination. This council is usually made up of ministers and deacons.

The candidate should be examined concerning his conversion, call to ministry, doctrinal views, leadership style, commitment, character, and daily walk with the Lord.

When the examination is completed, the ordination council should present a recommendation that the church proceed with the ordination of the candidate. The council may choose to delay the ordination or even reject the candidate. That is why it may be best to hold the council one week prior to the ordination service.

The church should not be hasty in ordaining an individual. It should be certain he has the scriptural qualifications to serve as a minister. The candidate should prove himself before he is considered for ordination.

Once a man has been ordained, he should live an exemplary Christian life and show himself to be a maturing, growing leader in the service of Christ. He is responsible to Jesus, his Lord, and to the church to behave as a God-called minister of the gospel.

Leadership and Life
Development

Florida Baptist
Convention

1230 Hendricks Ave
Jacksonville, FL
32207

800.226.8584,
Extension 3070
rsaint@flbaptist.org

Rick Wheeler,
Director

Roy Lee Saint,
Associate Director

Lewis Miller,
Associate Director

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Baptist Convention



How to Ordain a Deacon

Call to Worship

Hymn of Praise

Scripture and Prayer

Introductory Statement
(Tell why you have gathered.)

Presentation of the Candidate and His Family

The Ordination Prayer
(Candidate will kneel facing the congregation.)

Lay on of Hands
(While the candidate is kneeling, ordained men in the congregation will file by and place their hands on the candidate's head and whisper a prayer, encouraging word, or admonition to the candidate.)

Presentation of the Bible

Special Music

Message

Hymn of Commitment
(Remember, God may choose this time to call someone else into the ministry)

The entire congregation will greet the candidate and his family.

Please contact the **Leadership and Life Development Department** for further information. ~ 800.226.8584 extension 3018 ~

rsaint@fbaptist.org ~ www.fbaptist.org

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