

T C N

SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP

Ordination & Ministry License Track

Purpose of Ordination & Ministry Licensing:

Ordination and Ministerial Licensing serve distinct purposes within the local church, though both fulfill similar functions with the IRS.

Ordination is reserved for biblically qualified elders who feel called to a lifetime of vocational ministry as a pastor. Its purpose is to confirm this pastoral calling, preparing the individual for a lifelong commitment to ministry. It also allows the church body to affirm and anoint the pastor for ministry. This act of laying on hands and offering affirmation and prayers reflects a practice seen throughout the New Testament, symbolizing the anointing and power that only God can bestow for effective pastoral service.

Ministry Licensing is a significant and honorable recognition of an individual's calling to serve in a vocational ministry role within the church. This licensing affirms the heart, character, and commitment of those dedicated to ministry, confirming the church's belief in their ability to effectively serve and minister in various capacities. Through ministry licensing, the church formally acknowledges God's calling and gifting to these individuals, supporting them in their ministry journey and empowering them to serve in a meaningful and impactful way. Like ordination, ministry licensing carries the weight of responsibility and is given only to those who have demonstrated maturity, a commitment to the faith, and alignment with the church's values and mission. Sometimes, an individual is licensed for a season and then later ordained after demonstrating additional calling, spiritual maturity, and an expanded role within their church body.

Tax and Financial Benefits. Both ordination and ministry licensing afford pastors and licensed ministers specific tax and financial benefits under IRS guidelines. These benefits recognize the unique nature of vocational ministry. Licensed and ordained ministers may qualify for a housing allowance, exempt from federal income tax when used for housing-related expenses. Additionally, ministers may be eligible for self-employment tax exemptions and deductions specific to their ministerial income. These provisions

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help support pastors and ministry leaders in their service, providing practical assistance that allows them to focus more fully on their calling.

Requirements:

Students are required to read the books listed below and complete the following assignments by the deadlines listed during the ordination process. We will gather as a group for a brief discussion on what you're learning after each deadline. One of these homework assignments includes a theological essay. You can select from a list of topics below. We will complete the ordination process with an individual oral interview with a group of ordained pastors from our Triangle Network Churches. We've compiled a list of possible questions to help you prepare.

***Required book reading and Bible reading can begin before the ordination track begins so the student can space out their workload.

*** A student may be eligible to skip related sections if they have taken a relevant Bible School or seminary class.

Subject	Required Read/Watch	Required Assignments	Additional Resources
Endurance Deadline - February 28th	Leading on Empty (Wayne Cordero)	-Personal Dashboard from Leading on Empty -Enneagram Assessment -Character Discussion Post	Emotionally Healthy Spirituality - Pete Scazzero Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership (Ruth Haley Barton)
Leadership Deadline - April 30th	Spiritual Leadership (Henry Blackaby) Biblical Eldership Booklet: Restoring Eldership to the	- Fivefold Survey -Calling Discussion Post	The Making of a Leader - Robert Clifton

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	Rightful Place in Church (Alexander Strauch)		
Family Deadline - June 30th	Sacred Marriage (Gary Thomas) Shepherding a Child's Heart (Tedd Tripp)	- Prepare & Enrich Assessment -Family Discussion Post	Created for Connection (Dr. Sue Johnson)
Teaching & Hermeneutics Deadline - July 30th	Communicating for a Change (Andy Stanley)	-Write a sermon, preach, and receive Feedback using Teaching Assessment Tool -Teaching & Hermeneutics Discussion Post	
The Bible Deadline - September 30th	Introducing the Old Testament: A Short Guide (Temper Longman III) Introducing the New Testament: A Short Guide (DA Carson)	-Read the entire Old & New Testament before meeting with the Ordination Council. -The Bible Discussion Post	
Theology Deadline - October 30th	Nine Marks Books - The Gospel - Sound Doctrine - Biblical Theology	-Write a 1,000-word essay on what the Gospel is and how it is the central message of the Bible. -Theology Discussion	
Ordination Council Deadline - November	Read over and prepare for the Ordination Council	Ordination Council Oral Evaluation	

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30th	Oral Evaluation Questions.		
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Theological Topics to choose from for your essay:

- Are spiritual gifts still active for believers today?
- Is homosexuality a sin?
- Is tithing required for New Testament believers?
- What is the role of the church in politics?
- Do all religions worship the same God (just different names) — do all roads lead to heaven?

Ordination Council Oral Evaluation

Students pursuing ordination will also be required to sit before an ordination council to complete their ordination requirements. The applicant may be asked and should be prepared to respond orally to the following questions/requests during their ordination council oral evaluation:

Theological Evaluation

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1. Defend the doctrine of the deity of Christ.
2. Defend the doctrine of the Trinity.
3. What does the Bible teach regarding the salvation of man?
4. Describe the purpose of baptism
 - What is its purpose?
 - Is it for all believers?
5. Describe the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how you see them functioning today.
6. What do you believe regarding the second coming of Christ?
7. Describe the Scriptural teaching on tithing.
8. How did you personally come into a faith relationship with Jesus Christ?
9. What do you believe the Scripture teaches about homosexuality?
10. What is your philosophy of the role of church eldership?

Practical Evaluation

The Call to Ministry:

1. When and how did you sense God calling you into pastoral ministry?
2. What area of ministry do you feel called to?
3. What areas of ministry have you served in?
 - Currently serving in?
4. What results have you seen in past ministry experiences?
5. Have other leaders/mature believers confirmed your call to ministry? If so, how?

Relationship to Your Local Church:

1. Do you agree with your local church's Statement of Beliefs, vision, and mission?
2. How do you perceive your relationship with the elders of your local church?
3. Do you tithe?
4. What three goals would you seek to accomplish in your first/next year of ministry?
5. How will you establish a strong, healthy relationship with the elder team and congregation?
6. What aspects of ministry do you enjoy the most and the least?

Educational:

1. Which books have influenced you most?
2. Which Christian leaders have affected your life the most?
3. Describe your study patterns.

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4. Describe your organizational skills.
5. How do you plan to keep current in your ministry, improving your skills?
6. What courses (Biblical studies, practical ministry, specialized ministry, or pastoral leadership) have you completed, if any?

Family:

1. Does your spouse affirm your call to the ministry?
2. In what ways is your spouse supportive of your ministry?
3. Do you have a family budget?
4. Are you in debt?
5. Describe your family's spiritual life.
6. Describe your family's leisure time.
7. Describe the current quality of your marriage.
8. Have you ever been divorced?
9. Questions for your spouse:
 - How do you perceive your husband's call to ministry?
 - How do you see your role in the ministry?
 - What strengths and weaknesses does he bring to ministry?

Personal-Professional:

1. What are the potential pitfalls in your ministry?
 - What steps do you take to avoid these pitfalls?
2. Have you personally overcome any destructive lifestyle patterns and temptations by grace?
 - Any that you continue to struggle with?
3. How do you handle anger?
4. Describe your present prayer life.
5. What are your spiritual gifts and function/role?
6. What are your personal strengths and weaknesses?