

Ordination Interview

Potential ordinands should submit a completed Application for Ordination (available at www.ofld.mcccchurch.org) with all supporting documentation to the OFLD. Supporting documentation to include:

- Application Form, which includes endorsement of Pastor and Board of church where student is currently a member
- Internship evaluation and endorsement of Supervisor
- Current Resume
- Statement of Faith
- Statement of Call to Ministry (revised from REVM)
- Filing Fee

The OFLD will verify that all requirements for ordination (in most cases the Ministry Action Plan) have been completed and make any additional notes on an Ordination Checklist that will be attached to a copy of the Ordination Packet and sent to Interview Team members. The Interview Team will consist of three clergy in good standing with MCC. Retired clergy may also serve on interview teams. The OFLD will schedule an ordination interview within reasonable traveling distance within 90 days of receipt of application.

The interview with the ordinand will last approximately one hour and consist of:

- Brief introductions and opening prayer
- Questions about the candidate's call to ministry in MCC and any clarifying questions the Interview Team may have about the Ordination Packet (evaluations, Statement of Faith). The MCC Clergy Manual states: *MCC does not ordain for specific functions, but rather ordains for professional ministry in general. Ordination may qualify one for such ministries as pastor, staff/support pastor, evangelistic ministry, prison ministry, and chaplaincy (hospital, military, etc.).*
- A time for the ordinand to be excused so that the Interview Team can discuss their decision to approve or not approve for ordination. (Note: The decision to approve must be unanimous.)
- A time for the Interview Team to address questions to the ordinand's supervising clergy if more information or clarification is needed. (The supervising clergy should be available by phone if they are not physically present during the time of the interview.)
- Completion of the Ordination Interview Form, which lists the names of the ordinand, the Interview Team and the decision of the team with any comments.

- An invitation to the ordinand back to the room to share results, discuss, close in prayer.

The Ordination Interview Form will be returned to the OFLD representative on-site. A copy will be filed and a copy mailed to the ordinand.

Appeal

In the event of a decision not to approve a person for ordination, detailed reasons will be written on the Ordination Interview Form and discussed with the ordinand and the OFLD. The ordinand has the right to appeal the decision within ten (10) business days.

Appeal Process

- The ordinand may submit a written appeal to the OFLD within ten (10) business days.
- An appeal on the basis of bias or procedural error will be immediately investigated by the OFLD, and if substantiated, result in a new interview.
- An appeal will not be granted purely on the basis that the ordinand disagrees with the interview team's decision.
- The OFLD will have a maximum of 30 days to review the request for appeal. Upon review the OFLD may choose to (1) uphold the original decision of the interview team; (2) work with the ordinand on a process of addressing the concerns raised by the interview team and grant a second interview once that process has been satisfactorily completed; or (3) grant an appeal interview.
- In the event an appeal interview is granted, the Appeal Team shall have a copy of the decision by the original Interview Team, a copy of the request for appeal from the ordinand, and any other pertinent information supplied by the OFLD. The chair of the original interview team will be a non-voting member of the appeal team in order to provide background and clarification about the concerns of the original team. Participation by the chair may take place virtually.
- It is recommended that the ordinand engage in prayerful discussion and reflection with his or her pastor, supervising clergy, student colleagues, and other support systems during this time of appeal.
- The decision of the Appeal Team shall be final.