

THE SERVICE OF ORDINATION: A Suggested Order of Service

The act of ordination is a public recognition of one called of God to ministry in Christ's church, and the authentication of that one for service in the church. The act of the church in ordaining the one so recognized should be in the form of a public service of worship.

The service should be cast in a liturgical form appropriate to the experience of the ordinand and the church. The order of worship should include such elements as a call to worship, an invocation, appropriate hymns or other music and congregational responses of prayer and consecration. It concludes with a benediction which is customarily given by the ordinand.

The general elements of worship – praise, prayer, confession, meditation – should precede the specific acts of dedication by ordination. Frequently, charges to the candidate and church preclude a sermon. If there is a sermon, it should come prior to the acts of ordination and should be a general meditation on a theme appropriate to the ordination in particular but should not preempt the charges or the welcomes to follow.

The ordination becomes the dedication portion of the worship. Its acts include:

The taking of vows by the candidate

An ordaining prayer – with laying on of hands

Charges to the candidate and to the church

A welcome(s) to the ministry

A proclamation of the ordination

A benediction

* Also consider a signing ceremony of the Covenant and Code of Ethics for
Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches

The ordering of worship and the selections of participants in the service is the prerogative of the ordinand in conjunction with the church. Representatives of the Council and the ABCOM Committee on the Ministry are available as consultants.

American Baptist Churches of Maine

Committee on the Ministry

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