CLEVELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Ordination Service Recommendations

Suggested Order of Service

1. Processional (Optional)
2. Call to Worship
3. Invocation / Opening Prayer
4. Congregational Music
5. Scripture Reading
6. Welcome and Occasion
7. Presentation of the Candidate for Ordination
8. Report and Recommendation of the Ordination Council
9. Congregational Affirmation of the Recommendation
10. Congregational Music / Musical Selection
11. Ordination Sermon
12. Charge to the Candidate
13. Charge to the Church
14. Affirmation of Ordination Commitments (Optional)
15. Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Consecration
16. Declaration of Ordination
17. Presentation of the Ordination Certificate
18. Right Hand of Fellowship
19. Offering/Time of Giving
20. Congregational Music (During offering)
21. Response from the Newly Ordained Minister
22. Benediction
23. Recessional (Optional)

Additional Planning Recommendations

- **Local Church Authority:** The ordaining congregation retains responsibility for formally affirming and ordaining the candidate, consistent with Baptist polity.
- **Ordination Council Participation**: A council representative should formally report the council's recommendation to the congregation.
- **Candidate Participation**: The candidate should be consulted regarding Scripture, music, and persons invited to participate in the service.
- **Charges:** The charge to the candidate addresses the responsibilities of ordained ministry, while the charge to the church addresses its responsibilities of support, accountability, and partnership.
- **Laying on of Hands**: Ordained ministers and other designated participants may be invited to participate according to the congregation's established practices.
- **Service Planning**: The congregation should designate a coordinator and prepare a printed program identifying participants and their responsibilities.

The Distinction Between the Ordination Council and the Ordaining Congregation

The council examines the candidate and makes its recommendation. The local congregation formally acts upon that recommendation in accordance with its governance procedures and ordains the candidate.