

Community of Christ

AUSTRALIA MISSION CENTRE

Recommendation for Ordination

INFORMATION FOR THE CALLING OFFICER

1. This form is to be completed by the administrative officer initiating the call of a person to priesthood. On completion, it should be forwarded to the next administrative officer for further consideration and approvals. You are not to approach the candidate about the call until administrative approvals have been obtained, and you have been notified to discuss the call with the candidate.
2. An indication of divine call is **required**. Having said this, it should be understood that your experience as initiating officer need not be dramatic or completely without question on your part. You are to use your best judgment – not only concerning the spiritual experience regarding the call, but on every aspect which might affect ordination. That is, you are to take a ‘wholistic’ approach to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. You will **not** be asked to “defend” your discernment of the call, simply to share it.
3. Confirmation of the call (from a second person in the congregation sensing the divine intent) is appropriate but not mandatory.
4. If you sense the call, but are unclear as to the office, contact your supervising administrator for further counsel.
5. As the initiating officer regarding this call, you are a part of a team which will determine the appropriateness of ordination. You should see yourself as a member of a team, rather than strictly the proponent of this particular call. Our system relies on the Holy Spirit working through the administrative officers of the church, not only to discern the divinity of the call, but to identify the candidate’s strengths and weaknesses, the needs for ministry, etc. The strength of this system is in gaining a number of perspectives. It is possible that on occasion other administrative officers will evaluate the situation differently, in which case this form will be returned to you for further consultation to occur. Your integrity in response to the light you have received is fulfilled by initiating the recommendation for ordination.
6. There are a number of considerations for ordination; acceptance of his/her ministry by the people, personal standards to be met, the need for the candidate’s ministry in a priesthood capacity, and ultimately the readiness of the candidate.
7. Personal standards should be met before ordination, as well as to retain a priesthood license. These include stewardship compliance, continued training, and standards of personal conduct (see the statement of Priesthood Standards and Qualifications printed on this form).
8. If you have felt moved to process a call, but you know the candidate does not meet some of the priesthood standards, first give ministry to the person in the

area of inadequacy, obtaining some response without revealing a specific call. If your conviction of the call persists, you should process the call with a notation explaining the deficiency, ministry given, and the candidate's response. But a specific call should at no time be shared with the candidate prior to the usual approvals by the administrative officers. After all other considerations have indicated the appropriateness of ordination, the candidate may be approached about the call, and encouraged to meet the standards. If the candidate subsequently meets all the standards, ordination can proceed.

9. **After** approval for candidacy is given by the church and you are notified to proceed, you as the initiating officer may approach the candidate. The candidate should be informed of your role in the process, and that other approvals have been obtained. You should review the Priesthood Standards and Qualifications with the candidate and administer the Priesthood Interview. (It may be at this time that you become aware of personal standards which are not being met.)
10. The candidate should give prayerful consideration before accepting the call, realising the commitment to training and the service which the call requires. While the candidate may want personal validation of the call, this is not strictly necessary. You might encourage the candidate to weigh **all** considerations – the needs to the church for ministry which he/she can give, the time demands for preparation, and the skills, talents, and gifts which the candidate possesses, together with his/her sense of being called.
11. If the candidate has questions regarding the office, the standards, of the timing of ordination, you should feel free to contact the next level administrator to help answer such questions. You can also expect help from administrators in your Mission Centre to establish the Plan for Ministry.

AUSTRALIA MISSION – RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDINATION

.....
Name of Candidate **Registered Number**

.....
Address

.....
Office Recommended **Present Office**

.....
When ordained **Date baptized**

.....
Date of Birth **Congregation**

Marital Status: Single..... Married..... Widowed..... Divorced..... Defacto Same Sex

If divorced, give details:.....

Spouse's Name:..... Community of Christ..... Other Church..... None.....

Spouse's expected reaction: Good..... Neutral..... Poor.....

Candidate's occupation:..... **Special talents:**.....

.....
Education: Elementary..... High School..... College..... University.....

Other courses/experience:.....

Elected, volunteer, assigned church responsibilities and roles recently occupied:

.....
What are the gifts and potential for ministry evident in this person's life?

.....
Does the candidate enjoy adequate health to fulfil the demands of this office?

.....
Is the candidate a Registered Children/Youth Worker?

Note: All priesthood must be RCYW. If not, training and application will need to be completed prior to ordination.

TO BE COMPLETED BY MISSION CENTRE PRESIDENT

Data Received by					Checked with
Mission President:	/	/			Mission Financial Officer
Recommending officer(S)					/
notified of acceptance/					/
refusal by letter:	/	/			Recommending officer(s)
Advised World Church Secretary	/	/			notified Mission Centre of ordinand's
					acceptance/refusal:
					/
					/

PRIESTHOOD STANDARDS

	Pastor's Comments	Administrative Officer's comments
1. Is the candidate affirmative in testimony of the Christ and positive in support of all levels of church life – Congregation, Mission Centre and World Church?		
2. Does the candidate actively support the church to the best of his/her ability in terms of:	Attendance Local Offerings Tithing	
3. Does the candidate have a genuine interest and play a responsible role in his/her family life?		
4. Is this person's life currently "in order" in regard to relationships, attitudes, morality?		
5. If this person has been divorced or been involved in any conduct which could reflect negatively on his/her ability to minister, have you counselled with your supervising officers to determine if this should be a factor in submitting the call?		
6. Does the candidate exhibit good stewardship of health and hold high standards of behaviour in regard to the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs?		
7. Does the candidate have a positive attitude to study, personal improvement and spiritual growth?		
8. What further training does he/she need for office? (a) Extensive -- Moderate – Little (b) In what areas?		

CONSULTATION AND CONVICTION

	Pastor's Comments	Administrative Officer's comments
1. When this call was discussed with your counsellors, what was their reaction/ (Please note Item 5 on information sheet).		
2. What need is there in the congregation or in other church settings for this person's ministry?		
3. How will this ordination affect the balance of ministry according to priesthood office in the congregation?		
4. What will be the likely reaction of the people assembled in legislative session to this call?		
5. For initial practical training, the candidate will be "paired" with.....		
6. Conviction concerning this call came to me in this manner (general conviction, any special feelings or experiences)		

Recommended by PastorDate.....
(signed)

Approved by Mission PresidentDate.....
(signed)