

**Ordination service for a mission church  
with a commission as its temporary government.**

Here are BCO, ordination-service elements and the roles therein. You can use this document in combination with a template from any other ordination service of our Presbytery. Send a draft of your ordination-service bulletin to your commission's convener when you've got it done, and he'll check over it before it goes to print. The below is appropriately altered in regard to any of the BCO words that fit the ordination of a man to pastor an established church, but do not fit your situation as a church planter, so that the words stay true to the meaning of the BCO's words, yet fit your situation as a church planter.

There are eight things in the service to be done to meet BCO directives. The eighth thing is the benediction, which you'll do. Seven things are left.

As the ordinand, you may pick whom you want to do what in the service.

It is also your honor and privilege to do the asking of the proposed, commission men, to inquire of their willingnesses to serve on your ordination commission. Also, you can tell them what role you'd like them to serve in the service, per below:

**Roles**

- (1) **Sermon** .....TE
- (2) **The Proceedings of Presbytery**.....RE or TE
- (3) **Questions for Ordination** .....RE or TE
- (4) **Questions to the Presbytery** [in place of the congregation] RE or TE
- (5) **Prayer and Declaration of Ordination**.....TE is best here
- (6) **Charge to the Minister**.....TE is best here, but RE OK
- (7) **Charge to the Congregation**.....RE or TE
- (8) **Benediction**.....The just-ordained man.

**(1) 21-5.** The day appointed for the ordination having come, and the Presbytery being convened, a **sermon** suitable for the occasion shall be preached by a person appointed or invited by the Presbytery.

**(2) The Presbytery member appointed to preside shall afterwards briefly recite from the pulpit the proceedings of the Presbytery preparatory to the ordination; he shall point out the nature and importance of the ordinance, and endeavor to impress the audience with a proper sense of the solemnity of the transaction.**

### **(3) Questions for Ordination<sup>1</sup>**

Then, addressing himself to the candidate, he shall propose to him the following questions:

- 1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?**
- 2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will on your own initiative, make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?**
- 3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of Biblical polity?**
- 4. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?**
- 5. Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to seek the office of the holy ministry from love to God and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the Gospel of His Son?**
- 6. Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in maintaining the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace and unity of the Church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise unto you on that account?**
- 7. Do you engage to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as a Christian and a minister of the Gospel, whether personal or relational, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before the flock of which God shall make you overseer?**
- 8. Are you now willing to take the charge of this mission church, agreeable to your declaration when accepting our call? And do you, relying upon God for strength, promise to discharge to it the duties of a pastor?**

**(4) Questions to the Presbytery (by its commission)** (*changed from "congregation," per leading directives in footnote 2 in the BCO*)

**21-6.** The candidate having answered these questions in the affirmative, the presiding minister shall propose to the church the following questions:

"Please show your affirmative answer by raising your right hands and saying "WE do" to each of these questions:"

- 1. Do you, the commission on behalf of the presbytery, continue to profess your readiness to receive Timothy Ross Inman, whom you have called to begin a mission church in Dunn and to serve as its pastor?**
- 2. ~~Do you promise to receive the word of truth from his mouth with meekness and love, and to submit to him in the due exercise of discipline?~~ (*stricken, per directives in footnote 2 in the BCO*)**

3. **Do you promise to encourage him in his labors, and to assist his endeavors for the instruction and spiritual edification of the mission church in Dunn?**
4. **Do you engage to continue to him, while he is serving in this role, that competent worldly maintenance which you have approved, and to assist in furnishing him with whatever you may see needful for the honor of religion and for his comfort?**

**21-7.** The commission, having answered these questions in the affirmative, by holding up their right hands, the candidate shall kneel, and **(5)** the presiding minister shall, with **prayer** and the laying on of hands of the Presbytery, according to the apostolic example, solemnly set him apart to the holy office of the Gospel ministry. Prayer being ended, he shall rise from his knees; and the minister who presides shall first, followed by all members of the Presbytery, **take him by the right hand, saying, in words to this effect:**

**We give you the right hand of fellowship, to take part in this ministry with us.**

**The presiding minister shall then say:**

**I now pronounce and declare that Timothy Ross Inman has been regularly elected, ordained, and installed pastor of this mission, agreeable to the Word of God, and according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America; and that, as such, he is entitled to all support, encouragement, honor, and obedience in the Lord: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**(6)** After which the minister presiding, *or some other teaching or ruling elder* appointed for the purpose, shall give a solemn **charge to the pastor** and **(7) to the commission**, to persevere in the discharge of their reciprocal duties, and then after prayer and the singing of a psalm, or hymn, the congregation shall be dismissed with the **(8) benediction done by the newly ordained man**. The Presbytery shall duly record its proceedings.<sup>3</sup>

**21-8.** After the installation, the heads of families of the congregation then present, or at least the ruling elders and deacons, should come forward to their pastor, and give him their right hand, in token of cordial reception and affectionate regard.