

Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Path to Ordination





Congratulations!

Congratulations, fellow pastor! We extend our warmest felicitations as you receive this document, signifying that you have successfully fulfilled all the prerequisites necessary to initiate your ordination journey. Your dedication and commitment have brought you to this significant milestone, and we are thrilled to embark on this process with you.

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. Experience and Education:

Accumulate a minimum of four years of full-time pastoral experience and achieve your Masters of Divinity equivalency.

2. Approval from Administration:

Obtain administrative approval to initiate the ordination process.

3. Local Church Board Action:

The Ministerial Director meets with the local church board, which then takes action to recommended the pastor's ordination to the Conference.

4. Church Leadership Feedback

Church leadership completes a brief online questionnaire, supplied by the Ministerial Department, sharing how they've been blessed by the pastor's ministry and offering feedback on potential areas for growth. A minimum of ten responses is required.

5. Submission of Documents:

The pastor is required to compose a paper, aligning with the specific guidelines outlined by the SECC Ministerial Department and complete the Fact Sheet for the Ordination Review Committee. All these documents must be submitted by the provided deadline; otherwise, the ordination will be deferred to the next available date.

Documents to be Submitted:

- Paper responding to the Ministerial Department guidelines
- Fact Sheet

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6. Ordination Review Process:

The pastor meets with the SECC Ordination Review Committee to discuss their paper, overall ministry, areas of growth identified by church feedback, and their call to ministry. The committee is composed of the President, the Executive Secretary, the assistant to the President, the Vice President (if applicable), the Ministerial Department, the Youth Department (if applicable), special guest(s), and one additional SECC-ordained pastor of their choice. Together, they assess the pastor's readiness for ordination. If the SECC Ordination Review Committee finds the pastor to be ready for ordination, they recommend ordination to the SECC Executive Committee.

7. Executive Committee Action:

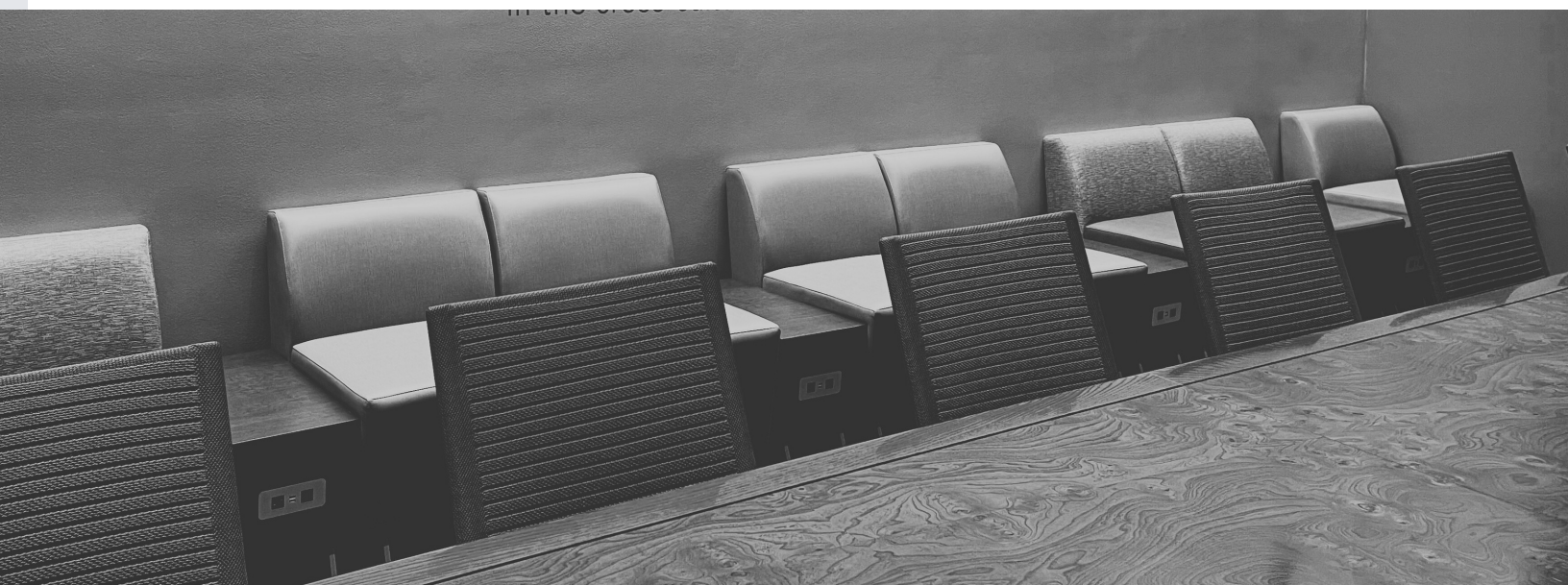
The SECC Executive Committee takes action to recommend the pastor's ordination to the Pacific Union Conference.

8. Union Conference Approval:

The Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee approves the ordination of the pastor.

9. Ordination Ceremony Planning:

The pastor meets with the Ministerial Department to choose a date and make plans for the Ordination Ceremony, receiving guidance and assistance from the department.



ORDINATION PAPER GUIDELINES

As part of the interview process, please prepare a 4 to 6-page paper that addresses the specified topics and ensure that the requested information is provided in the Fact Sheet. Format your documents with the following guidelines:

- Margins: Utilize a 1" margin on all sides.
- Line Spacing: Apply a 1.5 or double line spacing.
- Paragraphs: Indent the first line of each paragraph with a tab.
- Fonts: Use a standard, easy-to-read font such as Arial or Calibri in 12-pt.
- Alignment: Left-align your text.
- Format: Word not pdf.

1. Explain your comprehension of the meaning of ordination and your connection to its practice in the SDA church.
2. Identify indicators within yourself that signal your readiness for ordination.
3. Discuss observations about yourself and your ministry that affirm your calling to ministry.
4. Describe how you address personal and family needs while serving as a pastor. Provide indicators of a healthy emotional makeup and the well-being of your family and personal life.
5. Share your perspective on your role as a local pastor within the context of both the local conference and the world church.
6. Revisit your personal theology and philosophy of ministry, reflecting on its growth and potential changes over time.
7. Outline your dreams for your life in ministry. Envision your progression and establish goals for continuous growth—spiritual, mental, and physical.

FACT SHEET

Thank you for providing the requested information below:

- **Personal Information:**
 - Full Name
 - Spouse's Name (if applicable)
 - Date of Marriage (if applicable)
- **Family Details:**
 - Names and birthdates of children (if applicable)
- **Educational Background:**
 - Names of schools attended after college, degrees earned, and dates of graduation.
- **Baptismal and Ministry Experience:**
 - How many people you have personally baptized or have prepared for baptism and another senior pastor may have officiated on your behalf?
- **Professional Journey:**
 - Detail the churches and situations since college where you have served in conference employment, in chronological order.
- **Influential Figures:**
 - Provide a brief statement about individuals who have greatly influenced your journey toward ministry.
- **Additional Insights:**
 - Share any other interesting facts about yourself and your calling to ministry that the Committee should know.
- **Brief Biography:**
 - Please write a brief biography that captures your personal and ministerial journey.

Kindly email the documents to Cindy.Rivas@seccsda.org

ORDINATION CEREMONY PLANNING

THIS IS A GUIDELINE FOR YOUR CEREMONY

• ESSENTIALS

- Welcome Sr. Pastor (if applicable)/Person of your choice
- Opening Prayer/Invocation Person of your choice
- Invitation to Celebration Ministerial Director
- Introduction to Candidate Person/People of your choice
- Homily Person of your choice
- Prayer of Ordination Person/People of your choice (must be ordained)
- Ministerial Charge Executive Secretary
- Welcome to Ministry President
- Presentation of Credentials President
- The Response Ordinee
- Benediction Person of your choice

• OPTIONS

- The Presentation (responsive reading)
 - Head Elder, Board Chair, or Sr. Pastor
 - President
 - Ministerial Director
 - Youth Director (if applicable)
 - Conference VP (if applicable)
 - Conference Treasurer (if available)
- The Vow (responsive reading)
 - President
 - Ministerial Director
 - Youth Director (if applicable)
 - Conference VP (if applicable)
 - Conference Treasurer (if available)
- Worship Music
- Prelude
- Scripture Reading
- Videos and/or Slideshows
- Special Music
- Any other items which you feel will make your ordination ceremony special for you

Kindly email a draft of the program to Cindy.Rivas@seccsda.org

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THE PRESENTATION

Senior Pastor/First Elder:

Leaders and members of the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventist, on behalf of the members of the **ORDINEE'S** Church, we present to you **ORDINEE** to be ordained as a pastor of Christ's Church.

Has this congregation recognized the gifts of ministry that affirm God's call of **ORDINEE** to ministry?

Congregation: We have.

SECC Officer:

Has this candidate been examined for fitness to ministry and has **he/she** been recommended for ordination?

Ministerial Dpt. :

We certify to you that **ORDINEE** has satisfied all requirements for ordination.

SECC Officer:

ORDINEE, will you be loyal to the teaching of Jesus Christ as understood by our Church? And will you readily work cooperatively with both congregation and church leadership in the places where you will serve?

Ordinee:

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do believe the Old and New Testaments to be the Holy Scriptures which reveal Jesus, the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation.

SECC Officer:

People of God's Church, is it your will that **ORDINEE** be set apart by the laying on of hands as a minister of the gospel?

Congregation: It is.

SECC Officer:

Will you uphold **him/her** in this ministry?

Congregation: By God's grace, we will.

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THE VOW

SECC Officer/Director:

The Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ their Lord and Savior and to share in the renewing of His world. Now you are called to work as a pastor. It is your task to proclaim by word and deed the gospel of Jesus and to fashion your life according to its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, weak, and strong, rich, and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness, to pronounce God's blessings, to share in the administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to perform the other responsibilities entrusted to you. In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of His grace and strengthen them to glorify God in this life for the life to come.

ORDINEE, do you believe that you are truly called by God and His Church to serve as a pastor?

Ordinee: I do.

SECC Officer/Director:

Do you now, in the presence of the Church, commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Ordinee: I do.

SECC Officer/Director:

Will you be diligent in reading scripture and seeking knowledge of those things as may make you a stronger minister of Christ?

Ordinee: By the grace of God, I will.

SECC Officer/Director:

Will you endeavor to minister the Word of God so that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

Ordinee: By the grace of God, I will.

SECC Officer/Director:

Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with your colleagues in ministry to build up the family of God?

Ordinee: By the grace of God, I will.

SECC Officer/Director:

Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teaching of Christ so that you may be a good example to your people?

Ordinee: By the grace of God, I will.

SECC Officer/Director:

Will you persevere in prayer for yourself and for others?

Ordinee: By the grace of God, I will.

SECC Officer/Director:

May the Lord, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

Ordinee: AMEN.



SECC MINISTERIAL
LIVING OUT THE OVERFLOW