

Community of Christ

Elder

RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDINATION FORM FOR ELDER

I recommend _____ Register Number _____

For ordination to the office of ELDER.

Candidate's residence (address) _____

Currently enrolled in (congregation) _____

Date of birth: _____ Sex _____ Vocation _____

Approximate number of years as: Church Member _____ Priesthood _____

Any previous priesthood offices held _____

Current marital status, approximate number of years: Married _____ Single _____

Check if candidate has to your knowledge ever been: Widowed _____ Divorced _____

Spouse is member of: Community of Christ _____ Other church or faith _____ None _____

Spouse will be comfortable with this call: Highly _____ Fairly _____ Little _____

Education (show graduation or degree, or number of years attended):

Elementary _____ High School _____ Four-Year College _____

Postgraduate Work _____ Other Training _____

Further training needed for this office: Extensive _____ Moderate _____ Little _____

As pastor {or other appropriate administrative officer}, I present this recommendation as my own serious conviction of this call.

Signature(s) _____

Official Capacity _____

Congregation _____ Date _____

(Note: This call should be discussed only with proper administrative officers or others who will not share confidential information. Send this form to the mission center president. DO NOT APPROACH THE CANDIDATE ABOUT THE CALL UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED CLEARANCE TO DO SO.)

I. Personal (Ministerial) Characteristics

To fulfill an ordained ministerial role in the Community of Christ, it is expected that candidates would demonstrate Christian values and characteristics, that their lives would be “in order” with regard to morality and personal and family relationships, and that they would demonstrate special gifts and potential for ministry. It is not expected that a candidate will have strengths in all of the following areas.

Please indicate your perception of how the candidate demonstrates each of the following personal/ministerial characteristics by marking the appropriate category with an “X.” We invite you to comment on any areas under “May Need Improvement.”

Personal/Ministerial Characteristic	Strong	Moderate	May Need Improvement	Not Sure
Commitment to Serving Christ (an affirmative testimony)				
Ethical Behavior (integrity, values driven, Christ-like example)				
Healthy Lifestyle and Habits				
Accepting/Non-Judgmental Attitude				
Humility				
Caring, Compassionate Interpersonal Relationships				
Respected by Others				
Moderate to High Degree of Vitality/Energy				
Initiative/Self-Starter				
Scriptural Knowledge				
Knowledge of Church Beliefs				
Supportive of Community of Christ mission, program, and beliefs				
Commitment to Continue Learning				
Dependability				
History of Generous Giving to Local and World Church Needs				
Enduring Personal/Spiritual Relationship with God				
Advocate for Peace and Justice				

Comments on any “May Need Improvement” Items

II. Priesthood Duties for Office of ELDER

The duties and responsibilities for the office of elder in the Community of Christ are grounded in scripture (found in the Doctrine and Covenants) and influenced by the traditions and expectations of today's church.

In Doctrine and Covenants Section 17, we find guidance on the duties of an elder. We invite you to read through this section, and also Chapter 5 of *The Priesthood Manual*, and reflect upon the actual duties listed. The main duties break out into the following areas

- Win persons to Christ
- Teach, preach, expound, and exhort the church
- Provide administrative leadership within the church
- Visit in homes to encourage, strengthen, comfort, and teach the members of the church
- Lead meetings/gatherings of the church
- Administer sacraments and ordinances of the church (baptism, confirmation, ordination, marriage, administration to the sick, blessing children, Lord's Supper)

More recently, the church has given emphasis to the idea that the elder is a minister of mission.

These duties are influenced by both the giftedness of the individual minister and the ministerial expectations for the role. We know that elders possessing these expectations or competencies, and readily sharing them with others, tend to provide enriching, fulfilling ministry both inside and outside the church. **We also know that, in many ways, it is these ministerial expectations or competencies that help us discern the call to elder in contrast to deacon, teacher, or priest.**

On the next page, you will be asked to evaluate the priesthood candidate on the ministerial expectations for the office of elder.

III. Ministerial Competencies for Office of ELDER

A priesthood candidate will not likely demonstrate strength in all of the expectations of the office to which they are called. It is to be expected that they will grow and develop greater capacity for some of the ministerial expectations, though may never feel comfortable in, or fulfill, some of the competencies/expectations of an office.

Please indicate your perception of those role expectations that you see the candidate demonstrating with strength at this time or those that (s)he has the potential to develop. Please use an "X" to indicate your perception.

Expectations for Ministry	Current Strength/Gift	Potential to Develop	Not Sure
1. Demonstrates an abiding, affirming faith/testimony (based on an understanding of the complexities of God's action in our lives) when sharing in public and "one on one" ministry			
2. Demonstrates a sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit when participating in the ordinances and sacraments of the church and in other ministerial opportunities			
3. Provides effective leadership and administrative support in congregational/ministerial activities/programs			
4. Actively and effectively engages in multiple forms of communication to assist in the spreading of the gospel (listening, verbal, written)			
5. Demonstrates sensitivity and discernment regarding the needs and concerns of others in order to provide needed/desired ministry			
6. Shepherds/counsels members and friends with sensitivity and compassion, through life's victories and challenges (Refers for professional assistance as needed.)			
7. Upholds others in their life journey, be that in homes, hospitals, nursing homes, community organizations, or in other places where called.			
8. Reaches out to others with the love of Christ and the message of the gospel, recognizing the importance of winning persons to Christ; acts as a facilitator of "mission" for the church			

Comments Regarding Ministerial Competencies

IV. Additional Candidate Information

1. What kinds of ministry has the candidate already been providing?

2. What other information do you think is pertinent about this candidate?

V. Family/Congregational Support and Issues

1. How do you anticipate the candidate's family/spouse will react to this call? What concerns or issues may be encountered?

2. How do you anticipate the congregation will react to this call? What concerns or issues may be encountered?

3. How do you anticipate using this candidate's strengths, gifts, and ministry within the congregation? Are there any concerns or issues in this area?

4. How will this candidate's ordination affect the balance of ministry in the congregation (by offices and gifts)?

5. How much time and commitment will the candidate be willing/able to offer to the call and to serving the needs of the congregation? What concerns or issues may be encountered?

VI. Testimony of Divine/Inspired Calling Of Candidate

Briefly describe your experience(s) that led you to consider the call of this candidate inspired/divine.

VII. Future Development/Preparation of the Candidate

1. Along with the three (3) Temple School courses required prior to ordination (Introduction to Caring Ministries, Introduction to Understanding Scriptures, and role-specific ministry), what additional preparation will you recommend for this candidate? What development will be needed?

2. What plans do you have for the new ordinand to be mentored by an experienced priesthood member?

3. If the candidate has not been an active financial contributor to local and World Church programs/funds, what counsel will you provide them?