

A. Definition

- not to separate the clergy from the laity > "let us abolish the laity!"
- not a transference of authority (from other brethren or churches). delegation of authority
- not a means of creating new abilities
- a formal commitment of minister and congregation
- a way by which the minister is given authority and is authorized to function

B. Who is ordained?

- one who has the necessary <sup>(spiritual)</sup> personal qualities
- one who follows a vocation other than the pastorate is not excluded
- one who is active in the ministry of the Word and with this has accepted the responsibility of the care of the flock
- may include other ministries
- function need not be restricted to that for which he was ordained <sup>[need for self-assessment - in church - and recognition of special needs to be ministered to by certain ministers.]</sup>
- one ordained to one function may be ordained again if his function changes

C. Who ordains?

- the local congregation recognizes, calls and ordains
- the larger body of believers should be drawn in (conference, evangelical, ministerial)
- the minister may take initiative since his call originates with God
- congregation calls and ordains both when they become aware of gifts in a man & or needs in the group

D. The Ceremony

- there is a spiritual impartation of some kind
- act of laying on of hands is not more important than other aspects of the service
- laying on of hands does not imply ordination for life
- laying on of hands should be practiced more liberally so that it would lose the connotation of <sup>entrance</sup> entering into a status

E. Duration

- ordination tends to hold a man to his calling
- ordination is for service; therefore, the discontinuance of the service spells the end of the validity of ordination

F. Reluctance, Release, Retiring

- involve laymen in laying on of hands to avoid separation of clergy and laity, and thus overcome the hesitancy of some to accept ordination
- one who has performed the function for which he was ordained should be released without guilt or criticism
- the church must find a way to retire ordained men graciously and with dignity