

Procedures for Ordination

1. The pastor submits a formal letter to the Moderator of the Sumter Baptist M&E Association regarding the ordination candidate.
2. The moderator evaluates the letter and informs the Pastor's chairperson of the ordination council.
3. The Chairperson then corresponds with the ordination council of the candidate.
4. Three ordained pastors shall constitute an ordination council
5. The council shall recommend to the pastor each person seeking ordination who has given evidence of his/her conversion, their faith and loyalty to the doctrine of the Baptist church. Also, will have given evidence of his/her divine call to the work of the gospel ministry.
6. The council shall make recommendations to the pastor those persons who are seeking ordination.
7. The Ordination packet would be sent to the pastor and the candidate.
8. The council shall administer to person(s) who is seeking ordination an examination that is taken from the Bible and other materials given by the council as provided by the association
 - a. The council has 90 days to correspond to the pastor and candidate regarding examination results.
9. The council shall meet with persons who are seeking ordination no less than twice and no more than three times.

10. Each person seeking ordination shall pay to the Sumter Baptist M&E Association a fee of One-Hundred Fifty dollars. This fee is applicable at the initial request.
 - a. The candidate will be refunded after 90 days if the exam is not administered however the information packet must be returned
 - b. If the candidate fails the exam, another fee of One-Hundred and Fifty dollars will be issued for a second examination opportunity.
11. Each candidate who passes the examination given by the ordination council shall be ordained by the Sumter Baptist M&E Association.
12. A recommended candidate shall be ordained at his/her church or any other church as so recommended by their pastor.
13. All monies collected during the ordination service shall be given to the church where the ordination service is being held.
14. A monetary amount of One Hundred Fifty and dollars or more shall be given to the preacher who brings the message at the ordination service by the ordaining church.
15. The ordination sermon is not to be given by a member of the ordination council.
16. Any church within the Sumter Baptist M & E Association seeking to ordain a minister for a pastoral position must go through this process. It is also recommended that the minister complete the list of classes provided by the congress for ordination eligibility if the candidate does not have a religious degree.