



THE
Brethren
CHURCH

Manual of Commissioning Procedures

2022 Edition

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PURPOSE OF COMMISSIONING

1. Commissioning is designed for individuals within a local church to be recognized by their congregation for a specific or special designated ministry. It is not for individuals serving as solo or lead pastor of a church. Solo or lead pastors are required to be licensed within six months of call or hire, and to complete all licensing requirements within two years of initial license.
2. A commission is issued and overseen by the local church, with reporting of status to the Regional Leadership Team and through them to the National Board of Oversight.
3. A commissioned individual who no longer holds membership in the commissioning church automatically forfeits their commission.
4. A local church may remove the commission from an individual at any time through a congregational vote.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR COMMISSIONING

1. The local church chooses to call to commission for a Special Ministry
2. The candidate completes **Commission: Personal Information and Profile**
3. The local church examines the candidate and certifies that the candidate is acceptable to be commissioned.
4. The local church votes to commission the individual and notifies the Regional Leadership Team.
5. The local church conducts public recognition of commissioning for Special Ministry and notifies the Regional Leadership Team within 30 days.
6. The local church annually reports individuals commissioned to the Regional Leadership Team.
7. The National Board of Oversight is notified annually of persons who hold commission within the region.

NOTE: Commissioned persons are supervised by their local church. The list of commissioned individuals is reviewed annually by the Regional Leadership Team at regular intervals. If later a commissioned individual should seek ordination, they will need to pursue licensure, and following completion of the licensure process, proceed to pursue ordination.

CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE and CALL

1. How long have you been a Christian? _____ years

a. Under what circumstances did you become a Christian?

b. When were you baptized? _____ - _____ - _____ (date)
in what church? _____
by what method? _____

c. How long have you been a member of The Brethren Church? _____ years

d. If you are married, is your spouse a member of The Brethren Church? Yes ____ or No ____

PERSONAL FINANCES

1. Do you have financial obligations and debts which may hinder your ministry? Yes or No

2. Do you make regular contributions to a retirement account? Yes or No

3. Do you have adequate life insurance to help cover your family’s financial needs in the case of your death? Yes/No/Not sure

4. Do you have adequate medical insurance through your or your spouse’s current employer? Yes or No

PASTORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL ETHICS STATEMENTS

1. I have read the current pastoral ethics statement and affirm its content. **SEE REQUIRED READINGS** _____ (initial if true)

2. I have read the current congregational ethics statements (1987 version) and affirm its content. **SEE REQUIRED READINGS** _____ (initial if true)

ETHICS

1, Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, other than traffic offenses? Yes or No

If yes, please explain:

2. Has a formal complaint of ethical misconduct, ever been filed against you? Yes or No

If yes, please explain and how the case was resolved:

YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

Please list key areas of giftedness

Please list areas in which you do not feel gifted

I AGREE TO A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK BEING PERFORMED _____
(INITIAL)

I AGREE TO ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS BY THE LOCAL CHURCH _____
(INITIAL)

AUTHORIZATION FOR COMMISSION

Completed by Local Church Issuing Call and signed by Candidate

Date: _____

TO: The Regional Leadership Team of the _____ Region:
_____ is a member in
good standing and full fellowship of the _____ Brethren
Church located in _____.

The church has called this candidate to be commissioned to the Special Ministry of
_____. This commission
was issued at a congregational meeting on ____/____/____/ (mm/dd/yyyy). The result of the
secret ballot vote was _____ affirmative and _____ negative, with _____
qualified voters present.

Signed (signed by at least three of the below):

Pastor: _____

Moderator: _____

Secretary: _____

Deacon(ess): _____

Deacon(ess): _____

Candidate:

I hereby indicate my desire to be examined for Commissioning for the above ministry.

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: *Send one copy to RLT.*

COMMISSIONING: REVIEW SURVEY

NAME: _____

DATE COMPLETED: _____

This review will happen the first year a Brethren Pastor/Elder serves in a local congregation and then every three years thereafter.

Write a paragraph for each of the questions below. You may be contacted by a member of the Regional Leadership Team to discuss your responses.

1. What have you been reading? What individuals are you following on other sources (podcasts, blogs, social media)?

2. What special events and conferences have you attended (including Brethren events)?

3. What are you reading devotionally? How are you growing spiritually?

4. What are you doing for your self-care? (mental, emotional, physical, marriage, family)

5. What is your relationship with the people of your church?

6. What other Brethren pastors, leaders or congregations have you been in relationship with?

7. We want to help you in your ministerial and spiritual growth. What areas can we walk alongside you in? How can we resource you better?

8. Please give us your name, current address, cell phone, and e-mail to make sure our records are completely up to date.

REQUIRED READINGS FOR COMMISSIONING

1. *Brethren Beliefs*
2. *Brethren Positions on Social Issues*
3. *Manual of Pastoral and Congregational Procedures*
4. *Manual of Procedure*
5. *Brethren Pastor's Handbook*

RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Brethren Doctrine Intensive
2. Brethren History Intensive
3. Brethren Polity Intensive
4. *History of the Brethren Church* by Albert Ronk
5. *Background and Development of Brethren Doctrines* by Dale Stoffer
6. *A Brethren Witness for the 21st Century* edited by Jason Barnhart and Bill Ludwig
7. *The Complete Writings of Alexander Mack* by William Eberly