

## **Ordination and Licensing Process for Firehouse Church**

It is the heart of Firehouse Church to recognize those whom God has called to the Five-fold ministry. We know that it is God who ordains people and not we the church. However for the purpose of recognition for the society we live in, we at Firehouse want to help those called reach the full potential of that calling. That is why we have the ordination and licensing process.

Again, while we know that it is God who calls people and ordains people, we do have a process to see ones dedication to that calling before we recognize and certify that calling on their life. Listed within these pages outline the process and procedures for becoming ordained or recognized as a licensed minister by Firehouse Church, and what those recognitions consists of.

### **What does it mean to be a licensed minister?**

According to the Bylaws of Firehouse Church, a licensed minister is able to perform the following functions:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion
4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Serve on the Board of Directors of a church
6. And other sacerdotal functions including
  - A. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
  - B. Perform baptisms
  - C. Perform weddings
  - D. Conduct funerals

E. Visit the sick and shut-in

F. Minister in prisons

However, this person is not in charge of a congregation. Limited authority is granted to run the affairs of the ministry.

### **What does it mean to be an Ordained minister?**

According to the bylaws of Firehouse Church, an ordained minister is one step up from a licensed minister and to receive this type of recognition requires a lengthier process. Listed below are the functions that an ordained minister will be able to perform:

7. Conduct religious worship

8. Religious instruction

9. Administer communion

10. Provide spiritual counseling

11. Serve on the Board of Directors of a church

12. And other sacerdotal functions including

A. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies

B. Perform baptisms

C. Perform weddings

D. Conduct funerals

E. Visit the sick and shut-in

F. Minister in prisons

In addition to these functions, he must also be capable, as determined by the Senior Pastor/President, to take charge of a congregation.

In accordance with Firehouse Church bylaws and Scripture, only men may attain the recognition of ordination. We want to make it clear that does not mean that women cannot minister or speak the gospel only that they cannot minister in a position that is superior to the authority of a man. We believe this is clarified in scripture in 1 Corinthians 11:1-10.

## **1 Corinthians 11:1-10 New Living Translation (NLT)**

11 <sup>1</sup> And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

### **Instructions for Public Worship**

<sup>2</sup> I am so glad that you always keep me in your thoughts, and that you are following the teachings I passed on to you.

<sup>3</sup> But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. <sup>4</sup> A man dishonors his head if he covers his head while praying or prophesying. <sup>5</sup> But a woman dishonors her head if she prays or prophesies without a covering on her head, for this is the same as shaving her head. <sup>6</sup> Yes, if she refuses to wear a head covering, she should cut off all her hair! But since it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut or her head shaved, she should wear a covering.

<sup>7</sup> A man should not wear anything on his head when worshiping, for man is made in God's image and reflects God's glory. And woman reflects man's glory. <sup>8</sup> For the first man didn't come from woman, but the first woman came from man. <sup>9</sup> And man was not made for woman, but woman was made for man. <sup>10</sup> For this reason, and because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering on her head to show she is under authority.

### **Qualifications for Licensed Minister**

Listed below are the qualifications to begin the process of a licensed minister of Firehouse Church:

1. One who is seeking to become a licensed minister through Firehouse Church must have their lifestyle aligned with the qualifications of a bishop and elder in Titus 5:1-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
  - A. Must be one who is blameless
  - B. Must be a faithful spouse with only one husband or one wife, and must have only been married once since becoming a believer.

- C. Must exercise self-control, be upright, holy and disciplined
- D. Must live wisely and make wise decisions
- E. Must have a good reputation and good behavior
- F. Must enjoy having guest in their home
- G. Must be able to teach
- H. Must not drink alcoholic beverages or at the very most drink very little. Must not get drunk.
- I. Must not be violent or have a recent record of such
- J. Must not be a lover of money
- K. Must be gentle and patient
- L. The children who live in their home must be respectful and obedient
- M. Their marriage and relationship with their kids must be in good standing
- N. Must not be a new believer. A new believer will be considered as someone who has been reborn for a minimal of two consecutive years.

2. Should have read through the Bible at least once

3. Must be a regular part of the fellowship of Firehouse Church

### **Qualifications for Ordained Minister**

Listed below are the qualifications to begin the process of an ordained minister of Firehouse Church:

1. A man who is seeking to become an ordained minister through Firehouse Church must have his lifestyle aligned with the qualifications of a bishop and elder in Titus 5:1-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

A. He must be one who is blameless

B. He must be a faithful husband with only one wife, and must have only been married once since becoming a believer.

C. He must exercise self-control, be upright, holy and disciplined

D. He Must live wisely and make wise decisions

E. He must have a good reputation and good behavior

F. He must enjoy having guest in his home

G. He must be able to teach

H. He must not drink alcoholic beverages or at the very most drink very little. He must not get drunk.

I. He must not be violent or have a recent record of such

J. He must not be a lover of money

K. He must be gentle and patient

L. The children who live inhis home must be respectful and obedient

M. His marriage and relationship with this kids must be in good standing.

N. He must not be a new believer. A new believer will be considered as someone who has been reborn for a minimal of two consecutive years.

2. He should have read through the Bible at least once

3. He must be a regular part of the fellowship of Firehouse Church

### **Process and Procedures for becoming a licensed minister**

There is a process to becoming a licensed and/or ordained minister. Before anyone can become ordained, they must be licensed first. Listed in this section will be the procedures and steps necessary to the process of becoming a licensed minister.

1. The first step is to submit an application with a non-refundable \$100 registration fee. You will need to complete the application with as much detail as possible for the application to be accepted.

2. Once the application is submitted and complete, there will be an interview

3. After the application is submitted and the interview completed, it will then be reviewed and accepted or denied by the board. You will receive a letter of acceptance or denial through the mail. This could take up to 6 weeks.

4. Once accepted, you will then begin the process through which you will be required to complete in order to receive your license.
5. You will need to serve no less than 6 months in no less than 3 capacities at Firehouse Church. In order to pass this, you will need to have completed serving in excellence and as if doing it unto the Lord.
6. You will be required to complete several classes and/or teachings that pertain to scripture, the written doctrines of Firehouse Church, and the by-laws of Firehouse Church. (Licensed Ministers should have an in depth understanding of the Bible and written doctrines, but will only be required to have a general knowledge of the bylaws.)
7. You will need to remain in consistent fellowship with Firehouse Church at all time.
8. You will be required to be a faithful tither to the church before, during, and after the process if you intend on keeping your license valid.
9. You will be required to teach or minister at least four times in the period of one year.
10. Once all classes and pre-requisites are met, there will be a licensing exam that must be passed with a grade of 70 or better in order to receive your licenses.

The length of the process to receive your licenses will take a years time, if everything is completed in excellence and classes and exams are met and passed.

### **Process and Procedures for becoming an ordained minister**

Listed in this section is the additional procedures to becoming an ordained minister of Firehouse Church.

1. You must first have met all the requirements of a licensed minister and have passed the licensing exam. In other words, you must already be a licensed minister through Firehouse Church, and if the board approves other licenses from other denominations may be accepted at the sole discretion of the board.
2. You will serve as a pastor's apprentice. You will be asked to show up at the church earlier, be at board meetings, and so forth.
3. You will be required to take additional classes on the bylaws and have a more in depth understanding of those bylaws.
4. You will also have to complete a 40 hour online course regarding the legalities of operating a church
5. You will have to minister/teach more additional times as well.
6. You should have served to some extent in every area of ministry at the church including but not limited to worship/media ministry, hospitality, and kids.
7. You will also be required to participate in outreach endeavors as well.
8. The final requirement to graduate as an ordained minister is to write an in depth essay about how you would structure a local fellowship from the hospitality and beyond. The essay will have to be accepted in order to receive ordination.

It will take approximately 2 years to complete the process from the beginning of the licensing process to the completion of ordination. In other words, it will take an additional year to become ordained.

### **Maintaining Your License or Ordination**

It appears that from the standpoint of legalities, that one must remain in consistent fellowship with the organization through which they are ordained for their license or ordination to remain valid. In other words, you should remain in constant fellowship with Firehouse Church or the Firehouse Church Network in order to keep your license valid. Below are listed the procedures and requirements that Firehouse Church has in order for you to keep and maintain your license or ordination:

1. Your license or ordination will be reviewed every three years to see if you are still eligible to keep the license or ordination.
2. You must remain consistent with the qualifications of a bishop and elder stated in scripture, and the board or senior pastor/president may revoke your license or ordination at their or his discretion. This is considering that you may have violated scripture and/or the standards of Firehouse Church.
3. You must remain a faithful tither as long as you are licensed or ordained through Firehouse Church. You should give 10% of all your earned income to the church. Failure to do so will result in the license or ordination being revoked with or without notice.

4. It is highly recommended that you continue to serve in some capacity at Firehouse Church or one of the network churches of Firehouse Church. While this may not be heavily enforced, it shows that your heart is with this fellowship and focus on what and where God is leading us.