

Chapter 1

An Overview of The Purpose of Ordination

1. In 2007, The Church Of God In Christ celebrated 100 years as a Pentecostal-Holiness Denomination. How old is the Church of God in Christ?
2. From 1897 to 1907, under the leadership of Founder Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, the Denomination existed as an unincorporated Holiness Denomination. For 10 years, the Church Of God In Christ functioned as _____?_____.
3. A cotton gin in Lexington, Mississippi, was its first church. What was the first church building? _____?_____ Where was it located? _____?_____
4. There is a COGIC church in **all 50 States** and in **100 countries** around the world.
5. With the biblical and Protestant traditions, we affirm the priesthood of the believer and the ordination that Christ offers in John 15:16(KJV)
6. Christ's ordination is for every believer; it is an ordination to do kingdom ministry, witness and service.
7. This ordination by Christ does not obviate the need of denominational ordination of those who are separated and consecrated for service in the office of a minister, as pastors/teachers, evangelist, missionaries, chaplains, and so on.
8. Ordination is **NOT** a license to preach. Every born-again believer must preach and use words when necessary. Denominational ordination should affirm that the ordained person has met certain moral, ethical, spiritual and educational standards and is qualified to practice as a clergyman. (See book page 36 at the end of paragraph 2) What is the purpose of an Ordination License?
9. The process of ordination gives the denomination the opportunity to screen candidates who pose a danger to the local church and its members.
10. It is a well-known fact that many predators, pedophiles, rapists, thieves, and other unsavory characters view the Church as an easy target. What is the importance of ARC in Ordination?
11. In the COGIC, the authority to ordain rest with the office of **the Jurisdictional Bishop**?
12. The Ordination Board sets standards, conducts screenings, testing, and training to meet Jurisdictional and National standards for ordination.
13. The Bishop and Ordination Board must be vigilant in fulfilling their duty to screen and reject those candidates who pose a threat to the health and safety of the local church and denomination.
14. The Bishop establishes the Ordination Board (Paragraph 2 page 37)
15. In summary, Ordination is:
 - a. A recognition that a candidate has come under the authority of God's Word and the denominational leadership at eh local, district, jurisdictional and national level respectively. It confirms the candidate represents an established denomination.
 - b. A certification that the candidate has met certain requirements established by the state to perform priestly duties, such as performing weddings, conducting funerals, serving as a chaplain in the military, hospitals and other institutions.

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- c. A confirmation that candidates are prepared to serve as pastor or shepherd of God's people;
 - i. To organize or accept appointments as leaders of local congregations.
 - ii. To administer the sacraments
 - iii. To dedicate public buildings
 - iv. To represent the community of faith in local emergencies and/or disasters
 - v. To be an ambassador or spokesman for the kingdom of God.