

“ The Constitutional Questions”

A self-directed study to prepare elders for examination and ordination seeking to fulfill the requirements of BO,-G-14.0205

Resources—The Ordination Questions, Howard L. Rice & Calvin Chinn, the Book of Order, PCUSA.

Please follow the readings listed and write notes for you to refer to as you respond to the session’s examination. The examination will generally ask your understanding of the constitutional questions in light of the reading and reflecting you have done.

Feel free to consult additional resources or the other readings that the booklet suggests. You might also want to answer some of the suggestions for reflection and action and make any additional notes you felt important to share.

Question One: Do you trust in Jesus Christ, your Savior, and acknowledge him as Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

- Read pages 9-21 of the Ordination Questions
 - Read G-1.0100, G-6.0100, G-6.0200 and G-6.0300 of the Book of Order
 - Recall the occasion (s) when you publicly professed your faith in Jesus Christ as your lord and Savior. Jot down what you remember—place, year, people, feelings, reasons, etc.
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- Make a few notes as to how you have grown in your faith in Jesus Christ.
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- You will reaffirm your faith at your ordination by answering question one. What similarities and differences to your initial profession of faith are you aware of?
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- What were your initial thoughts and feelings when the Nominating Committee regarding your willingness to serve as an elder approached you?

Question Three: Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Question Four: Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and continually guided by our confessions?

- Read pages 31-38 of the Ordination Questions
- Read G.02000 of the book of order
- Regarding the “essential tenets” as expressed in G-2.0500 and on page 34, note any general thoughts you might have on them.

- Which mean the most to you at this point in your life?

- Which are usually the hardest for you to adopt into your daily life?

- Which seem to need our attention as a church right now? Why?

Question Five: Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

- Read pages 39-44 of the Ordination Questions
- Read G-1.02000-1.0500, G-4.0300, G-6.0100, G-9.0000 of the Book of order
- Which particular aspect of the Great Ends of the Church (G-1.0200) seems to fit most with God's call to you as elder right now?

- What do you need from your friendship with the pastor and other members of the session?

- What can you commit to them in that friendship of service?

Question Six: Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Question Seven: Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

- Read pages 45-51 in The Ordination of Questions
- Read G-3.0000, G-4.0400, G-5.0200 of the Book of Order
- What quality of discipleship do you think the congregation has seen in you most of the time?

- What quality of discipleship would you want people to see more in you?

- Rank from easiest (1) to most difficult (4) the following qualification of leadership:

_____ energy
_____ intelligence
_____ imagination
_____ love

Make some notes about why you ranked them as you did and what would help the ones more difficult for you to become more attainable.

- Using your prayerful imagination, what vision do you bring to the church?

