



THE
Brethren
CHURCH

Manual of Commissioning Procedures

2019 Draft Edition

Table of Contents

Purpose of Commissioning	3
Sequence of Events for Commissioning	3
Forms for Commissioning	4
Personal Information and Profile	4
Authorization for Commissioning	7
Readings for Commissioning.....	8
Required Readings	8
Recommended for Further Study.....	8

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 recommended that individuals serving as solo or lead pastor of a church be commissioned, but instead pursue licensure leading to ordination. and ordination
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

Revised 4/30/2018

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 should then proceed to the procedures of licensing & ordination.

PERSONAL INFORMATION AND PROFILE

(Revised 4/30/2018)

NOTE: A COMPLETE RESUME' WITH PICTURE IS TO BE COMPLETED IN ADDITION TO THIS FORM

Date this profile was completed ___ - ___ - ___

Name _____
Last first middle initial

Date of Birth ___ - ___ - ___

Address (where to send correspondence)

(Street Address)

(city)

(state)

(zip code)

Telephone number: _____ (H) _____ (W)

Email: _____@_____

1. Current ministry position _____

2. Family Description: Single _____ Married _____ Divorced _____ Widowed _____

Spouse's name _____ Date Married ___/___/___

Child(ren)'s name(s) _____

GENERAL THOUGHTS ABOUT MINISTRY

1. What in your ministry has brought you the greatest level of satisfaction?

2. What in your ministry has brought you the most frustration or disappointment?

3. What do you hope to accomplish in your ministry?

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 wife’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

(Revised 4/30/2018)

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..

REQUIRED READINGS FOR COMMISSIONING

1. *Brethren Beliefs*
2. *Brethren Positions on Social Issues*
3. *Manual of Pastoral and Congregational Procedures*

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