

Acts 12:24 Churches MEG Checklist – Ordination Interview

The purpose of the Ordination Interview is to discern if someone is to be ordained as an Elder in the Free Methodist Church. The Ordination Interview should have a “sense of moment”; it is much more rigorous than the CMC Interview. The Pastoral Development Program strengthens all ministry candidates and helps to clarify how they may best serve Jesus. The Ordination Interview should last at least one hour even for a very well-known candidate but could be as much as two hours.

Prior to the Interview:

Has this Candidate:

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| _____ Completed All Items on the Elder Formation Plan | _____ An Ordination Recommendation from the Lead Pastor or Mentor has been received |
| _____ Completed a Written Ministry Plan. | _____ Completed the Theological Assessment. |
| _____ If Married, Spouse completed the Spouse Questionnaire | |

Communicate to the Candidate:

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| _____ Date, Time, & Location of the Interview. | _____ The timeline, post-interview, on a decision. |
| _____ What they can expect. | |

If the Candidate is Approved to be Ordained as an Elder:

Communicate to the Candidate, by email or phone with a follow up email, the Next Steps. The candidate will:

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| _____ Register for Annual Conference. | _____ Dress business casual, bring your bible, invite family. |
| _____ Plan to arrive several hours early to meet with the Bishop. | |

If the Candidate is Not Approved:

*Communicate to the Candidate, by phone call with a follow up email **after** speaking to the candidate, the Next Steps:*

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| _____ The Decision of the MEG | _____ That they should continue to be active in ministry |
| _____ An offer for a 3-way conversation with their mentor/pastor | _____ That this should not be viewed as a failure. |

Some Points for Communicating Non-Approval:

- Thank you for your desire to pursue and explore God’s calling in your life.
- The Ordination interview is part of a discernment process to help a candidate understand that calling.
- Based on our recent interview, MEG did not believe that Ordination as an Elder is what God is calling you to at this time.
- The decision is based on many factors, including the ability to articulate one’s calling, past fruitfulness, and identifiable gifts that would point to a call to ordained ministry.
- *Maybe:* The MEG did, however, think that the Consecrated Deacon track (or missionary work, or lay ministry) would be best fitted for you at this time. Your local pastor can guide and direct you into this.
- *Maybe:* The candidate might continue as a CMC and be interviewed for Ordination again at a later time after some additional experience and development.

Steering someone out of a perceived call to ordained ministry (if you are persuaded it isn’t there) is not easy and has to be handled with care whereas not to devastate the individual. On the other hand, to not do it is a disservice to the individual, the conference, and the Kingdom.