

Extracts from PRADCO pertaining to Ordination

July 18, 1973

(A-30) WOMEN IN THE CHURCH--APPROVAL OF STUDY PLAN (RHP COF)

Agreed, To approve the plan of requesting PREXAD to name a representative ad hoc committee to meet at a time and place to be determined for the purpose of giving thorough and adequate study to the role of women in the church organization.

Page: 73-17

August 7, 1974

(P-793) MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS -- STATUS (GC STAFF) (MSN CEB)

The standing Committee on Credentials and Licenses desires that a statement be recorded which would clearly set forth procedures for granting of self-employed status and parsonage allowance privileges to ordained ministers holding current ministerial credentials. PREXAD presented the following:

"We recommend, 1. That when a member of the General Conference staff is recommended for ordination and is subsequently issued ministerial credentials, he immediately be considered eligible to self-employment status and eligible for parsonage allowance privilege.

"2. That ordained ministers on the General Conference staff who hold current ministerial credentials from the General Conference shall be considered eligible to self-employed status and eligible for the parsonage allowance privilege."

Agreed, To accept and record the statement about credentialed ministers which defines self-employment status and parsonage allowance privilege.

Page: 74-129

August 23, 1974

KINDS OF ORDINATION

August 23, 1974

PRESENT D H Baasch, F C Webster, R W Olson

BY INVITATION Leo Van Dolson

PRAYER R W Olson

R W Olson presented to the committee statements from the Spirit of Prophecy writings regarding Ordination.

Leo Van Dolson presented reactions received by MINISTRY MAGAZINE readers to Elder Ralph E Neall's article entitled, "So you're up for Ordination" which appeared in the July, 1973, issue of MINISTRY.

We recommend, That in harmony with Mrs Ellen G White's counsel which seems to indicate the desirability of ordaining deaconesses, the Church instituting such a practice on the level of the local church.

We recommend, That steps be taken to establish new categories of ordination for:

1. Missionary Physicians and Dentists (EVANGELISM 546).
2. Business-oriented personnel who are involved in major responsibilities in church administration (ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, pp 89, 90).

D H Baasch, Chairman

F C Webster, Secretary

Page: After 74-140

September 4, 1974

(A-800) KINDS OF ORDINATION -- DEACONESSES (MSN BES)

An ad hoc research committee submitted statements and a recommendation regarding the ordination of women as deaconesses.

(Copy of statement on file with the office minutes.)

Agreed, To receive the statements and recommendation and ask the Chairman to appoint an ad hoc committee to prepare a statement on the subject for presentation to the 1974 meeting of Home and Overseas Officers.

Committee appointed: M S NIGRI, B E Seton (sec), David H Baasch, N R Dower, R W Olson, R E Osborn, V W Schoen, F C Webster.

Page: 74-136

January 15, 1975

Role of Women in the Church

HACKETT, W J

Johnson, D S (sec)

Aeschlimann, Alfredo

Archbold, B L

Benton, Mrs Josephine

Bergold, Ida

Bock, L L

Bradford, C E

Coroner, Mrs M

Dower, N R

Fearing, Andrew

Guenther, C E

Harder, Mrs F E J

Hyde, G M

Millet, Ursula

Mittleider, K J

Nigri, M S

Pierson, Robert H

Rice, Ruby

Standish, Colin

Stirling, Betty

White, A L
Wilson, Neal C
Young, Ethel
Zytkoskee, A G
Page: 75-6

March 20, 1975

Minutes of Committee

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

March 20, 1975

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. J. Hackett, B. L. Archbold, Josephine Benton, Ida Bargold, C. E. Bradford, Marjorie Cornor, N. R. Dower, A. C. Fearing, C. E. Guenther, Marjorie Harder, G. M. Hyde, Ursula Millet, K. J. Mittleider, R. H. Pierson, Ruby Rice, Colin Standish, Betty Stirling, Ethel Young, A. G. Zytkoskee, D. S. Johnson

PRAYER: A. C. Fearing, Ethel Young

VOTED, To recommend the following report to PRADCO:

I. Potential roles of women in the church

Recommended, To place on record this list of potential leadership roles open to women:

A. General Conference level

1. Officers
2. Administrators
3. Members of executive committees
4. Auditors
5. Attorneys
6. Directors of departments
7. Associates and assistants of departments
8. Staff personnel

B. Union and local conference level

1. Officers
2. Administrative assistants
3. Directors of departments
4. Associates and assistants of departments
5. Members of conference committees
6. Field personnel

- a. Pastors
- b. Teachers
- c. Evangelists
- d. Bible instructors
- e. Counsellors

Social workers

7. Auditors
8. Staff personnel

C. Medical institutions

1. Administrators

2. Associate administrators
 3. Personnel directors
 4. Comptrollers
 5. Auditors
 6. Directors of departments
 7. Chief technologists
 8. Chief therapists
 9. Patient services
 10. Data processing
 11. Chaplains
- D. Educational institutions
1. Presidents and principals
 2. Vice principals
 3. Business managers
 4. Academic deans
 5. Deans of student affairs
 6. Comptrollers
 7. Auditors
 8. Chaplains
 9. Personnel directors
 10. Placement officers
 11. Chairmen of departments
 12. Associate and assistant professors
 13. Bible teachers and Biblical language professors
 14. Industrial heads
- E. Publishing Houses
1. Managers
 2. Business managers
 3. Editors, periodicals and books
 4. Personnel directors
 5. Superintendents
 6. Artists

Note: Ordination to the gospel ministry is a prerequisite to election to several of the administrative posts listed above.

II. Procedures for recruitment

Recommended, That we ask church and institutional administrators at all levels to make persistent and conscientious efforts to consider qualified women as well as men as candidates to fill the categories of work listed above.

III. Annual Council action revision (See AC, 74-388)

Recommended, a. That we continue to recognize that the primary role of women with family responsibilities is in the home as repeatedly emphasized in the Scriptures and the Spirit of prophecy.

b. That we also recognize that there are many women in the church without family responsibilities who are capable and free to dedicate their full time in the service of the church in all spheres and on all levels.

IV. Ordination of deaconesses and local church elders

Recommended, a. The ordination of deaconesses and that we encourage our churches to choose from their panel of deaconesses the Dorcas-welfare leader.

b. That a commitment to the principles of the work of the deacons and deaconesses as outlined in the Church Manual and based on New Testament teachings be a prerequisite to the implementation of the recommendations for ordination.

c. That women may be chosen and ordained as local elders and that the same principles apply.

V. Evangelism and pastoral work

Because of the vast responsibility which the church carries for the evangelism of the world, and the consequent need to channel all its resources to the achievement of this goal; And in view of our past history, which provides many precedents for women to take roles of leadership within the church, and while we continue to study the question of ordination of women to the ministry, let us seek to explore avenues of service far beyond those presently open to women.

Recommended, a. That conferences call both men and women to ministerial and evangelistic responsibilities.

b. That the ministerial internship plan, including financial sponsorship, involving the General, union and local conferences, (as outlined on pages 184-189 of the General Conference Working Policy) be open to women as well as men, in preparation for ministerial and evangelistic service, including women and men serving as Bible instructors. Among many advantages of this proposal would be preparation of a group of people to follow the Spirit of prophecy counsel that in ministerial work women talk over their problems with women. "When a woman is in trouble, let her take her trouble to women." (Evangelism, p. 460)

c. That the conferences open more places for Bible instructors in their ministerial forces.

W. J. Hackett, Chairman

D. S. Johnson, Secretary

Pages: 1-3

March 26, 1975

(A-996) ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH COMMITTEE #4 -- REPORT (OUP SM 75 AEG)

PRADCO received a report from the ad hoc committee on the Role of Women in the Church (#4).

(Report on file with the office minutes.)

Agreed, To receive the report and list it for the Spring Meeting 1975 gathering of Officers and Union Presidents. (wjh)

Page 75-63

November 12, 1975

(A-1392) WORKERS ORDAINED TO THE WORLD FIELD (MSN JWB)

The President of Andrews University has requested that study be given to including a statement in the General Conference Working Policy and the Ministers' Manual stating that in the Seventh-

day Adventist Church, ministers are ordained to serve the world Church. The following wording has been suggested:

"Workers are ordained to the gospel ministry to serve the world Church. In accepting ordination they become subject to direction from the Church in regard to the place where they minister for the Church. Those who accept ordination, recognize they may be expected to serve the Church as pastors and preachers of the Word even if, when ordained, they are serving in specialized ministries of the Church."

Agreed, To receive the recommendation and refer it to the following ad hoc committee for study and possible inclusion in the General Conference Working Policy and the Minister's Manual. Committee appointed: M S NIGRI, J W Bothe (sec), C E Bradford, W J Brown, N R Dower, Edwin Gibb, C D Henri.

Page 75, 171

April 21, 1976

(A-1392) WORKERS ORDAINED TO SERVE
THE WORLD CHURCH -- REPORT (HOOUP AC 76 AEG)

The following paragraphs have been recommended for inclusion in the General Conference Working Policy (page 187, 1975 Edition) immediately prior to the section titled, "Procedure in Authorizing Ordination," and in the NAD Working Policy (page 196, 1971 Edition); also the Ministers' Manual, page 17.

Agreed, To recommend to Home and Overseas Officers and Union Presidents at their meeting prior to Annual Council 1976, inclusion in the General Conference Working Policy (page 187, 1975 Edition), NAD Working Policy (page 196, 1971 Edition) and the Ministers' Manual (page 17) the following:

"Workers who are ordained to the gospel ministry are set apart to serve the world church, primarily as pastors and preachers of the Word, and are subject to the direction of the church in regard to the type of ministry and their place of service. It should therefore be understood by those accepting ordination and who are engaged in specialized ministries such as administration, teaching and departmental leadership, that they may be reassigned by the church to pastoral and preaching duties." Further

Agreed, To recommend amendment of the General Conference Working Policy (page 187, paragraph 1, 1975 Edition) as follows:

"1. ~~Inasmuch as~~ Ordination to the ministry is the setting apart of the worker ~~man~~ to a sacred calling, not for one local field alone but for the ~~entire~~ world Church and therefore needs to be done with wide counsel. The following plan is the proper procedure, except in special cases where serious delay would result:" (msn)

W Duncan Eva Chairman

Arthur H Roth Secretary

Pages: 76-41-42

September 22, 1976

(X-1845) LICENSED MINISTERS HOOUP (AC 76 AEG)

PREXAD recommended the following proposal regarding the status of licensed ministers:

"For many years the position of the licensed minister in the church has been unclear and one of embarrassment to both the church and the young minister. His role needs to be clearly defined and contrasted with that of the local elder who serves only in the church where he is elected and where his membership is held. The licensed minister is assigned to a church or a group of churches as its pastor or assistant pastor by the Conference/Mission Executive Committee, and it is necessary for him to be authorized to function fully in that capacity. We therefore recommend:

LICENSED MINISTERS

"1. A person is recognized as a minister of the gospel in the Seventh-day Adventist Church when all the following prerequisites have been satisfied:

"a. Completion of the prescribed ministerial education training requisites of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as defined by the division committee for his territory.

"b. Appointment by the Conference/Mission Executive Committee to a ministerial or pastoral responsibility.

"c. Recipient of a ministerial license.

"d. Ordination as a church elder.

"2. A licensed minister is authorized by the Conference/Mission Executive Committee to perform all the functions of the ordained minister in the church or churches where he is assigned.

"3. A licensed minister's authorization to serve as a minister of the Gospel and to perform all the functions of an ordained minister may, on recommendation of his ecclesiastical superior, be withdrawn by the Conference/Mission Executive Committee.

"4. A licensed minister's leadership progress, professional development and spiritual growth will be reviewed annually by the Conference/Mission administration and Executive Committee.

"5. A licensed minister ordinarily is ordained after a period of about four years. This spiritual rite constitutes the official confirmation by the Seventh-day Adventist Church of one's divine call to the ministry as a life commitment, and is his endorsement to serve as a minister of the Gospel in any part of the world."

Agreed, To receive the proposal and to list it for consideration by Annual Council '76 meeting of Home and Overseas Officers and Union Presidents. (ncw jwb) Further

Agreed, To ask the standing Church Manual Committee and the Ministerial Association to check and advise the HOOUP about the changes that will need to be made in the Church Manual and the Manual for Ministers if the above proposal is adopted. (grt, bes, nrd)

Page 76-101-102

November 10, 1976

-- STUDY COMMITTEE

Questions have arisen regarding ordination of local elders and deacons in the light of authority extended licensed ministers by Annual Council 1976. It is also hoped this committee might research and study the topic of ordination of deaconesses.

Agreed, To recommend to the General Conference Committee the appointment of an ad hoc committee to consider questions involved in the matter of ordination of local elders and deacons.

Committee recommended: NEAL C WILSON, J W Bothe (sec), N R Dower (or designee) Philip Follett, C O Franz (or designee), J H Hancock, J C Kozel, A V Wallenkampf. (ceb)
Page: 76-114

March 23, 1977

(A-2030) LICENSED MINISTERS—PERFORMANCE OF MARRIAGE CEREMONY (OUP SM 77)

Questions have arisen regarding the status of the licensed minister in relationship to limitations on marriages they might perform. The 1976 Annual Council action stated that a licensed minister may "perform all the functions of the ordained minister in the churches or companies to which he is assigned." Questions such as the following have been asked:

1. If a licensed minister has a member in his church who wishes to be married to a member of another SDA church and the ceremony is to take place out of his territory, is he permitted to perform the ceremony?

2. Would he be permitted to perform the ceremony for one of his members in another state and/or another conference?

3. A licensed minister pastoring an academy church has parishioners who are usually members of their home church but occasionally request their academy pastor to perform the ceremony.

b. Would he be permitted to perform this ceremony at the academy church?

Would he be permitted to perform this ceremony in the student's home church which may be in that conference or possibly another?

Agreed, To recommend to the Officers and Union Presidents at their gathering prior to Spring Meeting 1977, that in implementing the 1976 Annual Council NADCA action on the "Licensed Minister--Role and Status" (76 AC NAD 52, 53) whether it be the marriage ceremony, Lord's Supper, baptism etc, the following limitations should be duly noted:

1. A licensed minister may "perform all the functions of the ordained minister in the churches or companies to which he is assigned,"

2. It is the responsibility of the conference/mission executive committee to designate the geographical area to be included in the churches or companies to which he is assigned.

3. In the territorial assignment of a licensed minister, the following requisites should be cared for:

a. Election as a church elder in the churches or named in the companies to which he is assigned.

b. Ordination as a local elder.

Pages 77-42-43

April 27, 1977

(A-1191) COMMISSIONED MINISTER

25 March 1976

PRESENT: F W Wernick, C E Bradford, D H Baasch, J W Bothe, J R Spangler, F C Webster

PRAYER: J W Bothe

PRADCO and the Spring Meeting of 1975 called for a restudy of the commissioned minister category of worker. The actual appointment of the committee was left to the standing Credentials and Licenses Committee of the General Conference. The committee first reviewed two documents --one that was prepared by a subcommittee of the Credentials and Licenses

Committee, and another that was prepared by W J Hackett. It was observed that in past discussions the question has been raised -- what is the difference between the commissioned minister and the ordained minister, his role and function?

Recommended, To adopt the following guidelines and procedures for the selection and recognition of commissioned ministers:

1. That we reaffirm our belief that the gospel ministry is not a profession but a calling and that "ordination must never become simply a reward for faithful service or be considered as an opportunity to add title and prestige to a worker." GCWP MAD 1971, p 195.

The call to the gospel ministry is the call of God. It is this call which makes the gospel ministry unique. "Ordination of men who have not given clear evidence of their call as soul-saving ministers must be avoided. . .Because one holds a responsible position in the organized work, it must not be considered that he is by that fact alone eligible for ordination." Ibid p 194

Talents, skills, leadership qualities, and special gifts though desirable in themselves do not form the basis for ordination to the ministry. The call is sine qua non.

2. That a new category of credential be established to be known as the Commissioned Minister Credential, which is to be issued to workers of experience who carry major responsibilities and exercise a role of spiritual leadership, but are not engaged in a type of work which would ordinarily lead to ordination.

3. That public recognition be given to persons elected for this credential at one of the services at the church, calling attention to the value and worth of such workers to the church, and expressing the high esteem in which they are held as respected leaders.

4. That workers in the following category may be considered eligible for the Commissioned Minister Credential. (This list should not be considered exhaustive.)

Hospital Administrators

Health Care Corporation Presidents

Publishing House Managers

ABC Managers

Treasurers

Auditors

Welfare Directors

Community Services Directors

Physicians and Dentists in denominational service

Educational and School Administrators

Editors

5. That candidates for the Commissioned Minister Credential be evaluated by an appropriate committee appointed by the controlling committee or board in counsel with the union conference.

F W Wernick, Chairman

C E Bradford, Secretary

Page: After 77-59

July 13, 1977

(A-1769) WOMEN ASSOCIATES IN PASTORAL CARE--COMMITTEE REPORT (OUP AC 77)

Ad hoc committee (A-1769) Women Associates in Pastoral Care submitted the following amended report.

Terms of Reference: This ad hoc committee was appointed by OUP on April 1, 1977 to study the question of scholarships for women associates in pastoral care, and to report to PRADCO before Annual Council, 1977.

Agreed, To recommend:

1. That in the NAD the term "Associates in Pastoral Care" be used to identify women who are employed on pastoral staffs in the work of the ministry.
2. That women employed in this type of work receive a missionary license and eventually missionary credentials.
3. That provisions be made for five additional scholarships for "Associates in Pastoral Care," applying the same guidelines as for ministerial internships.

Agreed, To receive the report and to list it for the meeting of Officers and Union Presidents prior to Annual Council, 1977. (rh)

Page 77-81

November 16, 1977

From AC 77/ADCOM/PRADCO To Cr & Lic

(A-2037) CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES - POLICY REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To revise the policy "Procedure in Authorizing Ordination" (GC WP 187, 188; NAD WP 247) to harmonize with the procedure adopted by Annual Council 1977 (77 AC 12) "Granting of Credentials and Licenses to Workers serving in General Conference Institutions." (Report to PRADCO for Annual Council 1978.)

From AC 77/ADCOM/PRADCO To Cr & Lic (A-2037) CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES--GRANTING

RECOMMENDED, To request a study of the proposal whereby Sessions would be authorized to grant credentials to elected staffs and executive committees would grant credentials and licenses to all others, and that all policies, constitutions and bylaws be made to harmonize with this procedure. (Report to PRADCO for Annual Council 1978.)

Page: 77-117

April 26, 1978

From Credentials and Licenses/PRADCO To HOUP AC 78 (A-2037) CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES TO GC INSTITUTIONS PERSONNEL--POLICY REVISIONS

RECOMMENDED, To make the following revisions in the Credentials and Licenses policy:

Procedure in Authorizing Ordination

RECOMMENDED, To amend the policy "Procedure in Authorizing Ordination"

(GC WP 187, 188; NAD WP 247) as follows:

1. Inasmuch as ordination to the ministry is the setting apart of a man to a sacred calling, not for one local field alone but for the entire church, and therefore needs to be done with wide counsel, the following plan is the proper procedure, except in special cases where serious delay would result:

Page 78-39

June 6, 1979

From Administration/ADCOM/PRADCO/ADCOM to MSN AHR

A 1929 ORDINATION OF DEACONS AND ELDERS--DISCHARGE

VOTED, To discharge ad hoc committee A 1929 Ordination of Deacons and Elders because the committee's assignment has been fulfilled.

Page 79-44

June 4, 1980

Union Presidents/ADCOM/PRADCO to JWB-ADCOM/PREXAD

A 3154 CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES - ADDITIONAL PROVISION

Voted, To return the recommendation for the setting up of an ad hoc committee to study the providing of appropriate credentials for those, some of whom are women, who are preparing for work as clinical chaplains to ADCOM for further study.

It was felt that this study would automatically expand into other areas and that the terms of reference should be expanded to include such areas as appropriate credentials for individuals carrying major responsibilities in denominational institutions, for women in pastoral care and for women in denominational positions such as departmental directors, associate directors, etc. In expanding the terms of reference, the committee membership ought also to be expanded.

Page 80-37

June 18, 1980

PREXAD/PRADCO/ADCOM/PREXAD/PRADCO to EG-GCC

A 3154 CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES - ADDITIONAL PROVISION

--STUDY COMMITTEE (AD HOC)

RECOMMENDED, To appoint a committee to study the need for credentials for the following categories of workers:

Women associates in pastoral care

Women serving as departmental directors

Women serving as hospital chaplains

Men and women holding positions of major responsibility who are not eligible for ministerial credentials

Committee: G R THOMPSON, D R Christman (sec), W S Banfield, L Bock, J W Bothe, Gwendolyn Foster, C B Hirsch, Betty Holbrook, C Kinder, W L Murrill, R E Osborn, R L Pelton, J R Spangler, W A Thompson, Shirley Welch, F W Wernick, George Woodruff
Page 80-40

June 18, 1980

PREX/PRAD/ADCOM/PREX to EG-PRADCO
3154 CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES - ADDITIONAL PROVISION
RECOMMENDED, To appoint a committee to study the need for credentials for the following categories of workers:

1. Women associates in pastoral care.
2. Women serving as departmental directors.
3. Women serving as hospital chaplains (needing to be certified).
4. Men and women holding positions of major responsibility who are not eligible for missionary credentials.

G R THOMPSON, D R Christman (sec), L L Bock, J W Bothe, Gwendolyn Foster, C B Hirsch, Betty Holbrook, J C Kinder, W L Murrill, R E Osborn, R L Pelton, J R Spangler, W A Thompson, Shirley Welch, F W Wernick, George Woodruff.

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