

I ORDINATION OF MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT AND DEACONS – CONSOLIDATING ACT (ACT I 2018) (AS AMENDED BY ACT IV 2023)

Edinburgh, 19 May 2018, Session 3

The General Assembly declare and enact as follows:–

Definitions

1. (1) “Auxiliary Minister” means a person referred to as such in the Auxiliary Ministry Act (Act XIII 2003).
- (2) “Charge” shall mean a sphere of pastoral duty to which a parish minister is (i) inducted, or (ii) introduced under the arrangements set out in the Ministerial Staffing in the Presbytery of Shetland Regulations (Regs VI 2007).
- (3) “Deacon” means a person referred to as such in the Deacons Act (Act VIII 2010).
- (4) “FAPLT” means the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team.
- (5) “Minister” means an individual who has been ordained to ministry as defined in section 1(d) of the Selection and Training for Full-Time Ministry Act (Act X 2004).
- (6) “Ministers of Word and Sacrament” includes Ministers, Auxiliary Ministers and Ordained Local Ministers.
- (7) “Ordained Local Minister” means a person referred to as such in the Ordained Local Ministry Act (Act IX 2011).

Ordination of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Deacons

2. (1) Authority to ordain persons as (i) Ministers of Word and Sacrament or (ii) Deacons, is vested in Presbyteries.
- (2) Ordination is normally conferred on (i) the holder of an Exit Certificate or of a Graduate Candidate’s Certificate in terms of either Act X 2004 or Act IX 2011, or (ii) an individual who has satisfactorily completed a prescribed course of training for the Diaconate and who is recommended for ordination by the FAPLT, all in accordance with the Deacons Act (Act VIII 2010).
- (3) Ordination of a person described in section 2(2) may occur in any of the following situations:
 - (i) in connection with induction by the Presbytery to a Charge,
 - (ii) in connection with introduction as an associate minister in a Charge,
 - (iii) in connection with introduction as an assistant minister in a Charge,
 - (iv) in connection with introduction as an Ordained Local Minister to a designated appointment,
 - (v) in connection with introduction as a Deacon to a post in terms of section 11 of Act VIII 2010,
 - (vi) in relation to an appointment, the duties of which, in the judgement of the Presbytery, should be undertaken by an ordained Minister,
 - (vii) in connection with introduction as a Chaplain to H.M. Forces,
 - (viii) in connection with introduction as a professor or lecturer to a chair or lectureship in an accredited institution (as defined in section 1(k) of Act X 2004, ordination being by the Presbytery in which the institution is located,
 - (ix) in connection with an overseas appointment made by, or with the approval of, the FAPLT, ordination in such a case being by a Presbytery in Scotland

where there is no local Presbytery having jurisdiction, provided that the Presbytery is satisfied as to the arrangements made, or

- (x) in connection with introduction as a Minister to a congregation of deaf people in terms of the Ministries for Deaf Congregations (Act VI 2023).
- (4) Where an induction or introduction is to a parochial appointment, an edict shall be read as required by the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003). Otherwise public notice of the intention to ordain shall be given, normally at a Presbytery meeting for ordinary business.

Conduct of Ordinations

3. All services of ordination shall include the reading of the Preamble, the taking of the ordination vows and the signing of the Formula as prescribed in the Basis and Plan of Union.
4. The ordination of a Minister of Word and Sacrament shall be led by a Minister of Word and Sacrament who shall, if the Moderator of the Presbytery be not a Minister of Word and Sacrament, be appointed by the Presbytery from among its members who are Ministers of Word and Sacrament.
5. The ordination of a Deacon shall be led by a Minister of Word and Sacrament or Deacon who shall, if the Moderator of the Presbytery be an elder, be appointed by the Presbytery from among its members who are Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Deacons.

Laying-on of Hands in Ordinations

6. At the ordination of a Minister of Word and Sacrament or a Deacon, all Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Deacons and elders who are members of the ordaining Presbytery are eligible, with others who may be associated with the Presbytery, to take part in the laying-on of hands. Without prejudice to this general eligibility, the Presbytery may, in the interests of good order, determine which of these shall do so at any particular ordination.

Extract Minute

7. Following an ordination, the Presbytery Clerk shall send an extract minute to the Head of the Faith Action Programme.

Commencement, Amendments and Repeals

8. (1) This Act shall come into force on 19 May 2018.
(2) Act II 2000 (Ministry), Act III 2004 (Presbytery Ordinations) and Act VII 2010 (Ordination of Professors and Lecturers) shall be repealed on that date.