

**THE PLACE OF “GOD’S CALL” AS IT’S FOUND IN THE NAB
CREDENTIALING GUIDELINES FOR ORDINATION AND LICENSURE**
- Approved 5/31/03

The following are quotes from the above-mentioned documents that refer to the issue of “God’s Call” upon an individual. It reaffirms the need for us to understand the meaning and intent of “God’s Call” upon an individual.

(p.2) Purpose and Scope of Ministerial Credentialing:

*“The purpose of ministerial credentialing is **to affirm GOD’S CALL upon a person’s life for vocational ministerial leadership.**”*

*“Even though **GOD CALLS and gifts each person for ministerial service**, the Scriptures affirm that it is **the community of faith that ultimately determines the legitimacy of THAT CALL (I Timothy 4:14)** and our cultural system requires that an ecclesiastical body **affirms THAT CALL.**”*

(p.2) Types of Ministerial Credentials:

*“**We affirm THE CALL of both men and women to ministry.** According to our understanding of Scripture, the role of Sr. Pastor/Leading Elder is limited to men (I Corinthians 11:2-6; I Timothy 2:8-14).”*

Does this imply or mean that a woman would not or could not “be called” to become a Sr. Pastor/Leading Elder? Or does it mean that we would, based on this ‘understanding’, recommend that a local church NOT recognize or affirm such a ‘call’?

(p.2) A. Ordination

*“This credentialing designation is viewed as an act of the local church **in recognition of THE CALL OF GOD upon a person’s life.....**”*

(p.3) B. Licensure

*“This credentialing designation is viewed as an act of the local church and association **in recognition of THE CALL OF GOD upon a person’s life....**”*

(p.3) Minimum Requirements for Credentialing (Ordination or Licensure):

C. *“Must be one who has **heard and answered THE DIVINE CALL**, first to **personal salvation**, and then **to the CALL OF THE GOSPEL MINISTRY....**”*

(p.7) Purpose of Ordination

p.8) A. Acknowledgement and Confirmation of GOD'S CALL
"Through the act of ordination, the community of believers both acknowledges and **confirms the fact that GOD HAS INDEED CALLED a certain individual to the Gospel ministry (I Timothy 4:14).** This formal act is necessary on the one hand, **to avoid any individualistic and purely subjective understanding of THE CALL. Although THE CALL OF GOD comes to an individual, it is the community that ultimately determines the legitimacy of a PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF CALLING.**

p.8) B. Commissioning

*"Through the act of ordination, **the community of believers commissions into service one who has been CALLED OF GOD (Acts 13:3).***

(p.8) Prerequisites for Ordination

(p.9) A CALL OF GOD

*"Since ordination is an **acknowledgement and confirmation of GOD'S CALL, THE CALL OF GOD must be present. Specifically, the candidate for ordination must be one who has heard and answered THE DIVINE CALL, first to personal salvation, and then, to the Gospel ministry. Evidence of THIS (DIVINE CALL) in both word and life ought to be scrutinized prior to ordination by the ordaining church and by the ordination council (Acts. 13:2).**"*

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