

Form for Spouse of Candidate for Ordination

Credentialing Packet

Introduction:

There are many ways for a spouse to relate to a minister. Any of the following is possible and all are represented in Mennonite churches:

Couples in ministry (varieties)	"Traditional" pastor's spouse		Spouse as Cong. Member			Spouse Not involved	
	Not employed	Employed	Max Involvement	-	Min.	Attends elsewhere	Doesn't attend

For the sake of marital harmony it is important that you and your spouse have a common understanding about your involvement in the life and ministry of the church. For the sake of congregational harmony it is important that the congregation knows and accepts what your involvement will be.

Your spouse's call to ordained ministry is being discerned by the area conference. There are several aspects to this discernment process and several voices will be heard in it. Your voice is important in this decision, and this form is one way for your voice to be heard. Your choice in this is also reflected in the kind of involvement you will have in the ordination service if that takes place.

Questions for Response

1. At what point on this scale do you find yourself at this time?
2. How does your spouse's call to ministry affect you (and you children, if any)?
3. Do you believe your spouse is called by God to the ordained ministry?
4. Are you able to honor your spouse's call and to support her/him in ministry?
5. In what way, if any, do you want to be involved in your spouse's ordination service (if that is approved)? (Possibilities include standing beside your spouse during the prayer, participating in the prayer circle, sitting together during the service, and being recognized in the reception to follow.)
6. Do you want to talk with your conference minister/overseer about the ordination process or your role in your spouse's ministry? yes ____; not necessary at this time ____
7. Have you discussed your answers on this form with your spouse? yes ____; no ____

Signature _____

Date _____

This document last edited: 7/14/10