

**Typical Oral Exam Questions for Elders and Deacons
being ordained/installed into a Local Church.**

CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS:

- Persons are elected by the congregation, at which point they become candidates for office.
- Persons receive training in the Essentials, Reformed Doctrine, Westminster, the Sacraments, and Presbyterian Polity (Book of Order). Leadership Training Guide should be used to facilitate this training.
- Before Ordination/Installation, Session must examine each candidate per Constitutional Standards.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED BY SESSION:

Personal Faith and Walk:

- Who was one of the most influential people in your decision to become a Christian?
- What was the role of repentance in your conversion?
- How have you been growing in your walk with Jesus?
- How has Jesus used you as an officer of the church to minister to others?

Theology: Essentials, Reformed Distinctive including Westminster, Sacraments

- Name some of the distinctives of Presbyterian theology.
- What are the three components of the Westminster Standards? In which century were they written?
- Explain the meaning of:
 - Total Depravity
 - Unconditional Election
 - Limited Atonement
 - Irresistible Grace
 - Perseverance of the Saints
- What are the key differences between Presbyterian and congregational forms of government?
- What are the three marks of the true church?
- Do you believe in Infant Baptism? What would you tell a person who requested infant dedication?
- How does our view of Communion differ from the Roman Catholics and Baptists?
- How does your pastor “Fence” the Communion Table?

Polity: Book of Order/Nature of Office

- What are the three courts of the EPC?
- Elders are elected by the congregation, so who do they represent?
- What is the elder’s relationship to the Presbytery?
- What is the deacon’s relationship to the Session?
- What is the pastor’s relationship to the Presbytery?
- Where would you look in the Bible to find a description of the expected personal characteristics of elders or deacons?
- What is the first duty of the church according to the Book of Order?
- What are the three components of the EPC Book of Order?
- What were some surprises to you from your study of the Leadership Training Guide?
- Do you have any questions or concerns as a result of your study of the LTG?
- What do you perceive as some key strengths and weaknesses of your church?
- What issues do you see your church facing in the next five years?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding the ordination/installation vows you will take as a part of this process?