



# ECO ORDINATION

*God is calling, Let your journey begin*



[eco-pres.org/ordination](http://eco-pres.org/ordination)



## ECO ORDINATION

The journey into ordained pastoral ministry is an exciting one! In ECO, we are forging innovative paths to develop a new generation of pastors who are equipped to start and strengthen churches in the 21st century. We realize that an education alone does not prepare a candidate for the rigors of ministry. ECO has designed an ordination process that equips women and men with the best of our Reformed and Evangelical tradition in order to prepare them for the ever-changing world and dynamics of ministry. We come alongside those who embark on this journey by helping them to make it meaningful, educational, and transformational.

The ordination journey is unique to each individual depending on their different backgrounds, gifts, ministry experiences, and level of education. The ECO Ordination Journey has been intentionally designed to help a candidate towards Spirit-filled growth based on our 10 Leadership Core Competencies. Throughout this journey, each candidate will be affirmed in their God-given giftedness and challenged to grow in the area where their leadership needs further development.

Our primary purpose is to develop and deploy pastors for the Kingdom of God who are:



### Ordination Outcomes

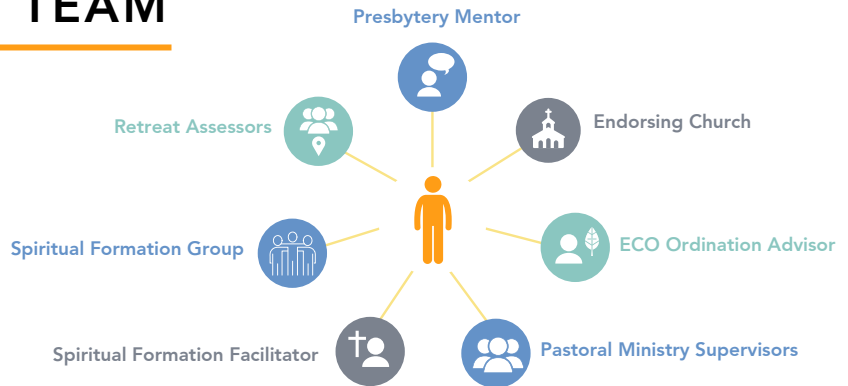
- 1 Integrated Biblically and Theologically
- 2 Proficient In Ministry
- 3 Skilled In Leadership
- 4 Healthy Spiritually and Emotionally

In ECO, we believe there is no “one size fits all” roadmap towards becoming an ECO ordained pastor. No matter the path, we seek to give candidates the educational and ministerial experiences in order to grow and develop with excellence.



## CANDIDATE'S TEAM

We believe discipleship, leadership development, and transformation happens most effectively through relationships. From the beginning to the end, each candidate will have a network of relationships through the ordination process.



## LEARNING MODALITIES

ECO's ordination process incorporates multiple learning styles beyond the traditional classroom model to create an integrated approach to higher learning. While classroom learning, is customary in pursuing a seminary degree, we incorporate additional types of learning styles into this experience to produce a more robust and comprehensive education for candidates training to become an ECO Ordained Pastor.

### Learning Modalities

Classroom  
Communal  
Experiential  
Alongside  
Reflective  
Retreat-Based



## PARTICIPANTS IN THE JOURNEY

Whether you are just recognizing God's calling towards ordination or you've been in ministry for some time, ordination candidates can enter this path at any point and can count on the support of their team as they make their way through ECO's Ordination Journey.

### How to Get Started

If you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to ordained ministry and you would like help to discern and develop that call, email us to begin a conversation: [ordination@eco-pres.org](mailto:ordination@eco-pres.org)

### Duration

The ordination process can take from 6 months to a few years depending on where the candidate enters the process as well as how long it takes for the candidate to complete their map in the Growth and Development Phase.

### Cost

Candidates are responsible for:

- Initial ordination application w/ background check completed
- Retreat #1 (\$1,600) & Retreat #2 (\$1,700)
- Travel costs for retreats (locations will be offered regionally up to 4 times/year). Exact locations TBD.

\*Financial assistance may be available through Candidates home church or presbytery\*

To learn more visit: [eco-pres.org/ordination](https://eco-pres.org/ordination)



# ECO ORDINATION

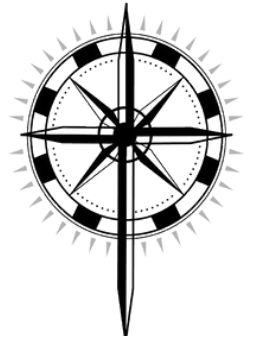
God is Calling, Let Your Journey Begin



↑  
Your Journey  
Begins Here

# ORDINATION JOURNEY

## Key Descriptions



### 1 DISCERNMENT & INTAKE PHASE

#### APPLY



The journey begins! Complete an **Ordination Application** & submit it to the ECO National Office. The Ordination Application consists of narrative questions, an endorsement from the session, resume, preliminary statement of faith & sense of call & a background check.

#### INTAKE INTERVIEW



The **Ordination Advisor & Presbytery Ordination Mentor** will meet with the candidate to go over all materials and will extend the formal invitation to **Retreat Intensive #1**.

#### ACCEPTED



The candidate is **officially accepted** into the process & prepares to move forward on the path.

#### RETREAT #1



#### MAP YOUR JOURNEY



#### Retreat Intensive #1: Mapping Your Journey

- The candidate will focus on spiritual formation as primary to their life & ministry.
- The candidate will learn about ECO theology & vision.
- The candidate will map their ordination journey based on their wiring, competencies, ministry experiences & their assessors' prayerful input.
- The candidate will emerge from Retreat Intensive #1 with a complete map for their growth & development phase to follow.

## 2 GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT PHASE

### COMPLETE YOUR MAP



The candidate will take the time they need to **complete their map** which may include: Mentored Ministry Internship (required), seminary courses, working on specific competencies, or recommended counseling. The candidate will also complete their required ordination exams during this time.

### READINESS ASSESSMENT



The candidate begins the **Theological Integration Interview** with a small committee of people who will **assess the candidate's readiness** for Retreat Intensive #2. The interview seeks to discern whether a candidate has a sound livable theology according to the **ECO Essential Tenets**. Candidates must pass this interview and then receive their invitation to Retreat Intensive #2.

## 3 FINAL ASSESSMENT & APPROVAL PHASE

### RETREAT #2



### FINAL ASSESSMENT



### Retreat Intensive #2: Final Assessment & Recommendation

- The candidate will be **assessed for final recommendation** for ordination using a multifaceted approach looking at the whole person & their readiness for pastoral ministry.
- The candidate & a team of assessors will work together to **determine their outcome**: fully recommended, provisionally recommended, or not recommended.
- This retreat intensive also focuses on how spiritual formation is central to their ministry, as well as helping candidates determine which type of call might be the best fit for them.

### RECEIVE CALL & PRESBYTERY APPROVAL



Celebrate that God has been faithful & the candidate has been obedient to answer God's call! A **church calls the candidate**, who is now certified ready to receive a call to be their pastor! The **presbytery gives the candidate final approval** to qualify them as an ECO Pastor.