

**Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren
Pre-Commissioning & Pre-Ordination Exam**

(This is in addition to the Interview Guide)

Please submit a typed response: Retype each question followed by your answer.**

Send completed response to: Pacific Southwest District Office, P.O. Box 219, La Verne, CA 91750-0219

A. Biblical Understanding

1. Write a brief (300-500 word) exegesis of one of the passages from each of the lists below:

List 1		List 2	
Genesis 15:1-21	Psalms 23	Matthew 5:17-30	Matthew 26:26-35
Genesis 22:1-19	Isaiah 53	Mark 6:34-44	Luke 6:17-38
Exodus 3:1-16	Micah 6:6-8	John 1:1-18	John 13:1-20, 31-35
I Kings 18:17-40		I Corinthians 1:4 – 2:5	I Corinthians 13:1-13
		Hebrews 4:14 – 5:14	Revelation 4 – 5

2. Define and discuss briefly (100 words or less), using biblical references where appropriate, what you understand by the following terms: Choose Five (5) from the Seven (7).

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| 1. Sin | 4. Justice | 6. Repentance |
| 2. New Life in Christ | 5. Justification | 7. Evangelism |
| 3. Service | | |

B. Brethren Doctrine and Practice: Discuss your understanding of the following areas of Brethren doctrine and practice: Choose Five (5) from the Eight (8). You are encouraged to use Biblical references, if you desire. (longer is not necessarily better)

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| 1. Baptism | 4. Eucharist | 7. Love feast and feet washing |
| 2. Anointing with oil | 5. Simple life | 8. Laying on of hands |
| 3. Child dedication | 6. Peace and reconciliation | |

C. Christian Education: Discuss your philosophy of Christian Education.

D. Administration What do you feel are the major administrative tasks for which a pastor should assume responsibility in most congregations?

E. Polity: The Church of the Brethren Manual of Organization and Polity states: **“Authority is held accountable within the community, which in turn diligently seeks the “mind of Christ” in study of the Scriptures, in dialogue with brothers and sisters, and in openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit.”**
This being true, briefly discuss the nature of pastoral authority.

**** Translation Requests:**

Candidates who submit materials in a language other than English must allow an additional three weeks so that the district can arrange for translation of the materials. A translation fee will accompany all such applications. Churches are encouraged to help applicants cover this cost.

**** PSWD Confidentiality Policy:**

Copies of the Pre-Licensing, Pre-Ordination, Reception of Ordination Interview Guides and PSWD Church of the Brethren Pre-Ordination Exam, will be provided to the PSWD Executive Minister/s. Nurturing and Credentialing Committee, Interview Committee and, upon request to the District Board. All documents are retained by the district and may not be reproduced. All of the above documents are officially private information.