

Toronto Statement

May 1992

In baptism all Christians share in the eternal priesthood of Christ. In ordination the church calls a few of its members to several distinct offices, as focal points and sacraments of Christ in particular ministries of leadership.

Acting on this principle, the church in the early centuries ordained baptized persons directly to the diaconate, presbyterate, and episcopate, without requiring them to pass through another order. Gradually, however, culminating in the middle ages, the church introduced a discipline of ordaining persons through a sequence of orders.

We ask the church to return to the early tradition of ordaining persons directly to the order to which they have been called. The only sacramental prerequisite for ordaining a bishop, priest, or deacon is baptism. All members of the church should be eligible for ordination directly to any of the three orders.

Toronto, Ontario