

Draft 2

Sub-C 2

Parts 1 + 2

MINISTRY

1 The Servant Church exists to serve both God and man. These two aspects of service, united in the design of God, were perfectly fulfilled in the life and sacrifice of Christ. The nature of the Church's ministry is to continue this dual role, in dependence upon Christ the perfect servant: that is to say, by participating in the benefits of Christ's salvation, the baptized community becomes the 'temple' that radiates the glory of God and the 'Hierateuma' that proclaims Christ's saving deeds (1 Peter 2: 5, 9-10). Because the Church is the reconciled community, she is able to be in Christ the agent of the reconciliation. God chooses to work largely through the loving agency of men, as is manifest in the Incarnation.

2 In order to enable the Church to fulfil this 'Hierateuma' for the service of God and men, Christ by his Holy Spirit takes from among his people some who are to exercise a special ministry. This ministry is raised up to be the Holy Spirit's instrument for the building up of the Church as the sanctified community for the glory of God and the salvation of men. The ministers are chosen and sent by Christ Himself through the Holy Spirit's empowering, a vocation recognized by the Church. In the light of both the purpose of God and of the nature of

the Church such a ministry is necessary, but it exists only for the community and therefore retains, at least in the New Testament, a measure of flexibility. Within the New Testament, ministerial actions are varied and imprecisely defined, so that we cannot from that source deduce a complete blueprint for ministry.