

OPEN BIBLE STANDARD CHURCHES OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO INC.
36-40 Ruth Avenue, Les Efforts West
San Fernando

POLICY ON CRITERIA FOR ENTERING FULL-TIME MINISTRY

The ministerial body of the Open Bible Standard Churches of Trinidad and Tobago Inc. comprises individuals, some of whom are classified as full-time and others who may be regarded as part-time or bi-vocational. These classifications have been in existence from the very inception of the organization and no doubt will continue to exist in the future.

Over the years, several ministers have moved from being part-time (bi-vocational) ministers to full-time status. We regard such a move as both commendable and advisable. The transition, however, has not always been smooth and there have been occasions when such a move has created financial and other problems for the church, the minister and his family and the organization. There have also been instances when the decision to become full-time was taken unilaterally with the National Board being informed only after the fact.

While it is true that the decision to enter full-time ministry is a personal and spiritual matter, we are of the view that such a decision can affect the effective functioning of the church and the minister's family, a measure of consultation and collaboration is therefore necessary. The purpose of this policy therefore is to provide a framework for a smooth transition from part-time to full-time ministry.

The following criteria now apply. Any minister with the organization deciding to move from part-time to full-time minister shall:

- (i) Be convinced that this is God's will for his/her life and the local church.
- (ii) Should show evidence of gifting for the particular area of ministry.
- (iii) Have the support of his/her spouse (if married).
- (iv) Give the National Board of Directors at least six (6) months written notice of his/her intention.
- (v) Have the approval of the National Board of Directors.
- (vi) Have the approval of the Local Board of Deacons and the membership of the church (except in the case of a pioneer work).
- (vii) Provide a plan for financial support in the ministry.

N.B. The National Board of Directors stand willing and ready to assist ministers as they seek to fulfill God's will and purpose for their lives.