

The Ellen G. White Estate

*Q & A 43-
B-5*

(Incorporated)



"Elmshaven" St. Helena, California

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October 1, 1936.

109 Holcombe Street
Montgomery, Alabama.

*Ordination
of E. G. White*

Dear Brother

Your letter of Sept. 26, addressed to Elder W.C. White has been handed to me with the request that I answer the questions which you raise. Elder White is devoting almost all of his time and strength to the preparation of a series of articles for the Review which soon will appear under the title "Sketches and Memories of James and Ellen White."

I have talked ^{over} with him the matters regarding which you raise question in your letter. The one relating to the ordination of Ellen G. White, I will say that Mrs. White was never ordained by the laying on of hands. Her calling was from a much higher source and her work was a special one. She was recognized as a minister of the gospel and credentials were issued to her by the Michigan Conference early in 1871. At a later time she received ministerial credentials from the General Conference. I cannot give you the date when she received her first credentials from that source.

Mrs. White never baptized nor did she ever give the ordination charge to others.

In the early days she received no compensation for her services, although her work for the denomination took nearly her entire time, and it was necessary to employ domestic help to assist in the household duties. The time came, ^{of} however, when it was recognized that her work was equal to that of a minister, and she was paid a salary as a minister of the gospel.

You raise the question as to the denomination's position relative to the ordination of women to the ministry. I am not aware of any ruling on the subject nor am I aware of any women who have been ordained to the ministry.

I trust that this answers fully the questions you had in mind when you wrote to Elder White.

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Asst. Sec.
THE ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE