

43-B-5

Q + A - Ordination of EGW

December 18, 1956

Dr. E. R. Thiele
Emmanuel Missionary College
Berrien Springs, Michigan

Dear Brother Thiele:

Thank you for your letter written December 12. It is always good to hear from you.

You ask if Ellen White was ordained with the laying on of hands. The answer is that she was not. It was clear to those about Ellen White that her ordination was of a higher authority than that which would result from the laying on of hands by men. It would have been rather anti-climactic, after being called by God in a special manner to His work, for others to lay hands upon her in setting her apart to the Lord's service. For all practical purposes in the denomination she was considered as one who had been ordained. She did not, however, engage in those acts which are restricted to an ordained minister, such as the performing of marriage ceremonies, et cetera.

As the brethren issued her credentials, they were a bit perplexed. At times they neatly crossed out the word "ordained". At other times it was left untouched.

From time to time, as a denomination, we have given study to the question of the ordination of women. We have even appointed committees to give study to the question, but so far as I am aware, we have not up to this time ever ordained women by the laying on of hands. What the future may hold, I do not know, but at the present our policies do not open the way for the ordination of women.

I am sorry, Brother Thiele, that while you were here during the summer we did not have an opportunity for a little visit. I had expected that we would, but somehow the pressure was very intense and the days slipped by and you were back at Berrien before I hardly realized it.

ALW