

APPENDIX B

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FORM for ABCOM COMMISSIONING

GUIDELINES:

1. Educational Standards for ABCOM Commissioning
 - A. The educational standard for ABCOM Commissioning is related to the ABCOM Institute for Ministry (AIM) certificate program or its equivalent. Equivalencies shall be determined by the Committee on the Ministry (COM).
 - B. To receive an ABCOM Commission, the candidate will have graduated from AIM or another COM approved institution having completed the following courses or their equivalents:

Old Testament I and II	Church History
New Testament I and II	Baptist History and Polity
Christian Education	Basic Christian Theology
Pastoral Ethics	Practice of Ministry
Preaching	Mentored Practice I and II
Missions and Evangelism	
 - C. To receive a renewal for ABCOM Commission, the candidate must continue to maintain a relationship with a mentor approved by the Committee on the Ministry and have completed at least four additional courses of the AIM Advance Studies Program or COM approved courses focused on their particular ministry call from God.
2. Documents to be presented by the candidate to the ABCOM Committee on the Ministry:
 - A. A copy of a currently valid local church license.
 - B. A letter indicating evidence of at least one full year of satisfactory ministry approved by the licensing church.
 - C. Transcripts demonstrating completed educational requirements for an ABCOM Commission.
 - D. A letter indicating reasons for seeking an ABCOM Commission;
 - E. A theological position paper of 8 to 10 typed pages, preferably with line numbers, detailing the candidate's conversion, call to ministry, and views on the following:*
 - o God, including nature, character, person of the Trinity, and attributes.
 - o Jesus Christ, including nature, person of the Trinity, purpose and mission.
 - o Holy Spirit, including nature, person of the Trinity, purpose and mission.
 - o The Bible, including views on inspiration, authority, truth, and interpretation
 - o Baptism, including symbolism, meaning, purpose, and method.
 - o The Lord's Supper, including symbolism, meaning, purpose, and method.
 - o The Human Condition, including created condition, fall, and consequences of sin.
 - o Salvation, including means, essential elements, continuation, and completion.
 - o Eschatology, including the second coming of Christ and the final judgment.
 - o The Church, including nature, mission, and purpose in today's society.
 - o The Laity, including the role and ministry.
 - o The Minister, including role and ministry.
 - o The Candidate's commitment in support of ABCOM and ABC/USA.
 - o The Candidate's relationship to other pastors and churches, including non-ABC pastors and churches.
 - o *It is important to consult a systematic theology text in preparing this paper. Your Committee on Ministry representative is also a useful resource and should review your paper before submittal.
 - F. A signed copy of the current Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)
 - G. A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)
3. References from three persons, including one from the candidate's mentor; approved by the AIM Mentoring Committee (Appendix B.1).
4. Application for Renewal of the ABCOM Commission (appendix B.2) shall be presented to the Committee on the Ministry in each fifth year after Commissioning or Renewal of Commissioning which will detail the candidate's experience in continuing education and practice of ministry.
5. The ABCOM Commission requires maintaining membership in an American Baptist church.

APPLICATION FORM FOR ABCOM COMMISSIONING

1. I request a meeting with the ABCOM COMMITTEE ON THE MINISTRY to apply for an ABCOM Commission to Ministry.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening: _____

Local Church Membership: _____

Pastor: _____

2. Attached documents:

A. A copy of currently valid local church license.

B. Transcripts demonstrating completed educational requirements for an ABCOM Commission.

C. Letter indicating reasons for seeking ABCOM Commission

D. Theological position paper.

E. A signed copy of the current Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)

F. A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)

3. I understand that references from three persons, including my mentor (Appendix B.1) should be completed, signed, and mailed by each of them to:

Secretary
Committee on the Ministry
American Baptist Churches of Maine
PO Box 617
Augusta, ME 04332-0617

The candidate will be contacted for a meeting date with the Committee on the Ministry once the application is reviewed by the Committee representative.

Candidate Signature _____ Date _____

COM Rep. Signature _____ Date _____

10/21/16

APPENDIX B.1

REFERENCE FOR A PERSON SEEKING ABCOM COMMISSIONING

The ABCOM Commission to serve as a Christian Minister certifies that the credentials of the candidate have been examined and approved by the Committee on the Ministry. The Commission is to minister, whether in Pastoral Ministry (as Pastor, Chaplain, Administrator, Counselor, or other pastoral capacity) or in Specialized Ministry (in Christian Education, Youth Work, Music, or some other specialty). The ABCOM Commission will be granted for a period of five years and is renewable.

You have been asked to serve as a reference for _____

who is seeking an ABCOM Commission. Would you complete the questions on this form and mail your response to: Secretary, Committee on the Ministry, ABCOM, PO Box 617, Augusta, ME 04332-0617. We thank you for your cooperation.

Questions for person providing reference:

1. How long and in what ways have you known the applicant? _____

2. What are the applicant's strengths that will be an asset to the work of the Christian Church? _____

3. In what areas of life or ministry do you sense the need for continued growth? _____

4. How has the applicant demonstrated that he or she will continue in personal spiritual and academic growth? _____

5. At this time, as the Committee on the Ministry considers this candidate's request, what is your response to the possibility of affirmative committee action?
_____ Highly supportive _____ Supportive _____ Hesitant
_____ Opposed _____ Not enough information to react

6. Comments:

Signed _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Are you currently an AIM Mentor for this candidate: _____ yes _____ no

APPENDIX B.2

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF COMMISSIONING

An ABCOM Commission will be reviewed five years following the initial commissioning and again five years later where a renewal may be granted of indefinite duration. It is hoped that the renewal process will provide support and accountability for our lay ministry leadership and help to insure called, competent, and committed leaders for our churches.

An ABCOM Commission may be revoked by the Committee on the Ministry following the general guidelines used in the case of an ordained minister.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____ DATE OF COMMISSIONING: _____
E-MAIL: _____ DATE OF LAST RENEWAL: _____
MENTOR: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

1. List AIM courses and AIM approved course equivalencies since commissioning or last renewal. Four courses are required. (Please attach transcripts)

2. Detail other courses or continuing education experiences since last renewal:
(Please attach copies of certificates of completion)

3. Describe ministry experience since last renewal.

4. Share current goals for continuing education and ministry:

Education:

Ministry:

5. Please attach a signed copy of the current Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)
6. Please attach a completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)
7. Please attach or have sent to the Committee 3 references (Appendix B.1)
8. Are you a member of an ABC church? If so, which one?
9. Additional comments for the Committee on the Ministry

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Committee on the Ministry representative signature _____ Date: ___/___/___