

APPENDIX E

RECOGNITION OF NON-ABC ORDINATIONS

Procedure for Those Whose Ordination is Not Currently Recognized by the ABC/USA Process and Standards

- 1) An ordained minister who desires ABC recognition shall appear before the Committee on the Ministry, by appointment with the secretary, for presentation of the case and credentials. No decision is to be made until the person receives a call to an American Baptist church or a recognized ministry in Maine, and is a member in good standing in an American Baptist church.
 - 2) The Committee on the Ministry counseling with the candidate will require that person's recognition be subject to the same standards that apply to those already ordained in ABCOM. Formal recognition shall be subject to a one year period of satisfactory ministerial service in an ABCOM church or recognized ministry. The Committee on the Ministry reserves the right to require candidates to undergo a comprehensive career and candidacy assessment program sponsored by or in consultation with an American Baptist related Career Development Center prior to the Committee's recommendation for an examining council.
- A) The candidate shall:
- 1) Present a letter of ministerial standing from the validating religious body, and a description of service with that body. Include why service with that body was discontinued. Provide three references from your previous ministry plus one from the ABCOM church currently being served.
 - 2) Present a written statement of reasons for desiring recognition by American Baptist Churches as well as your intention of loyalty and support of ABC.
 - 3) Include a statement concerning your conversion, call to ministry and view of Christian doctrine.
 - 4) Present a signed copy of the Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G).
 - 5) Present a completed and signed Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H).
 - 6) Confer with the Committee representative concerning personal and educational background, including certification of education and with a course in American Baptist History and Polity and a course in ministerial ethics.
 - 7) Seek an appointment through the Secretary for interview with the Committee on the Ministry.
- B) The Committee on the Ministry will:
- 1) Inform the candidate of its action and recommend that appropriate service of recognition be held by the candidate's local church.
 - 2) Forward certification of its recognition to the local Association, the state office of ABCOM, The secretary of this Committee will provide the candidate with a letter signed by the Executive Minister stating that the candidate's previous ordination has been recognized, giving the date of the action. The name of the candidate will be listed appropriately in the Yearbook.

APPENDIX E

RECOGNITION OF NON-ABC ORDINATION

APPLICATION:

Dear Co-Worker:

Welcome to the American Baptist Churches! We want to share mission and ministry with you. It is the responsibility of the Committee on the Ministry to review credentials of those who choose to seek recognition of ordination by other American Baptist Churches.

Please become familiar with the procedure for recognition, and complete the application below. When completed, please forward to:

Secretary, Committee on the Ministry
American Baptist Churches of Maine
PO Box 6149
China Village, ME 04926

1) **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Email: _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____

Are you a member of an American Baptist church? Yes _____ No _____

2) **RECOGNITION RECEIVED:**

A) Have you been licensed or ordained in some type of ministry?
If yes, indicate when, where, and by whom.

B) Have you ever been refused recognition by an American Baptist church or agency?
If yes, indicate when, where, and by whom.

3) EDUCATIONAL HISTORY:

- A) Have you graduated from a high school? Yes _____ No _____
- B) Please list your academic and theological training:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEARS ATTENDED</u>	<u>DEGREE</u>
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4) MINISTRY WORK HISTORY:

<u>DATES</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DENOMINATION</u>
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5) PLEASE ATTACH:

- A) A letter of ministerial standing from the validating religious body;
- B) Names and addresses of selected references;
- C) A written statement of reasons for desiring recognition by American Baptist Churches, including your intention of loyalty and support of American Baptist Churches' mission and ministry;
- D) A paper of 8 to 10 typed pages, preferably with line numbers, detailing the candidate's conversion and call to ministry, and views on:
 - God: consider including nature and character, Trinity, attributes
 - Jesus Christ: consider including nature (God? Man?), purpose and mission, Trinity
 - Holy Spirit: consider including nature, purpose and mission, Trinity
 - The Bible and its use: consider including views on inspiration, authority, infallibility, inerrancy
 - Baptism: consider including meaning, purpose, and method
 - The Lord's Supper: consider including meaning, purpose, and method
 - The human condition: consider including condition at creation, and subsequent fall, current and eternal consequences
 - Salvation: consider including means, method, results
 - Eschatology
 - The purpose, place and mission of the church in today's society
 - The role of the laity
 - The role of the minister
 - Your commitment in support of American Baptist Churches
 - Your relationship to other pastors and churches
 Consulting a systematic theology as well as your Committee on the Ministry representative is very helpful, if not essential, in producing a satisfactory paper.
- E) A signed copy of the Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G);
- F) A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H);
- G) Evidence that you have had conference with a Committee representative and certified that you have had a course in American Baptist History and Polity and a course in ministerial ethics.

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

APPENDIX G

THE COVENANT AND CODE OF ETHICS FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERS OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

Having accepted God's call to leadership in Christ's Church, I covenant with God to serve Christ and the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit, to deepen my obedience to the Two Great Commandments; to love the Lord our God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love my neighbor as myself.

In affirmation of this commitment, I will abide by the Code of Ethics of the Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches and I will faithfully support its purposes and ideals. As further affirmation of my commitment, I covenant with my colleagues in ministry that we will hold one another accountable for fulfillment of all the public actions set forth in our Code of Ethics.

- + I will hold in trust the traditions and practices of our American Baptist Churches; I will not accept a position in the American Baptist family unless I am in accord with those traditions and practices; nor will I use my influence to alienate my congregation/constituents or any part thereof from its relationship and support of the denomination. If my convictions change, I will resign my position.
- + I will respect and recognize the variety of calls to ministry among my American Baptist colleagues, and other Christians.
- + I will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues in neighboring churches.
- + I will advocate adequate compensation for my profession. I will help lay persons and colleagues to understand that ministerial leaders should not expect or require fees for pastoral services from constituents they serve, when these constituents are helping pay their salaries.
- + I will not seek personal favors or discounts on the basis of my ministerial status.
- + I will maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayer and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, sexual integrity, financial responsibility, regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for ministerial and personal development. I will seek to maintain good health habits.
- + I will recognize my primary obligation to the church or employing group to which I have been called, and will accept added responsibilities only if they do not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my ministry.
- + I will personally and publicly support my colleagues who experience discrimination on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, national origin, physical impairment or disability.
- + I will not proselytize from other Christian churches.
- + I will, upon my resignation or retirement, sever my ministerial leadership relations with my former constituents, and will not make ministerial contacts in the field of another ministerial leader without his/her request and /or consent.
- + I will hold in confidence and treat as confidential communication any information provided to me with the expectation of privacy. I will not disclose such information in private or public except when, in my practice of ministry, I am convinced that the sanctity of confidentiality is outweighed by my well-founded belief that, life-threatening or substantial harm will be caused.
- + I will not use my ministerial status, position or authority knowingly to abuse, misguide, negatively influence, manipulate, or take advantage of anyone, especially children.
- + I will report all instances of abuse as required by law to the appropriate agency. In any case involving persons working in ABC ministry, I will also report the circumstances to the appropriate regional and/or national denominational representative.
- + I will show my personal love for God as revealed in Jesus Christ in my life and ministry, as I strive together with my colleagues to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of the vocation to which we have been called.

Signed _____ Date _____

10/23/2009 ABCOM

APPENDIX H

SELF-DISCLOSURE AND RELEASE FORM

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF MAINE

PREAMBLE

The American Baptist Churches of Maine has an outstanding record for maintaining the highest moral and ethical standards in the practice of ministry. This record of service reflects our commitment to "preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline, and promote the integrity of the vocation to which we have been called" (Ministers Council Code of Ethics). When any clergy person engages in misconduct, the church is brought into disrepute and all persons involved suffer. In addition, there can be legal repercussions from such acts of misconduct. Therefore, the American Baptist Churches of Maine is committed to taking any reasonable precaution to avoid such disrepute, suffering, and litigation. This Self-Disclosure and Release Form is a part of the program's effort to minimize the occurrence of misconduct among clergy who serve among our churches. Your understanding and cooperation is deeply appreciated.

1. I have never been the subject of official disciplinary proceedings in any American Baptist Region that resulted in any of the following:
 - a. Censure true not true
 - b. Suspension of recognition of ordination true not true
 - c. Withdrawal of recognition of ordination true not true

2. No official disciplinary proceedings by a region, association, or church of the American Baptist Churches are pending against me at the present time. true not true

3. I have never been the subject of official disciplinary proceedings by another denomination that resulted in disciplinary action. true not true

4. No official disciplinary proceedings by another denomination are pending against me at the present time. true not true

5. I have never been the subject of official disciplinary proceedings by a professional association or guild that resulted in disciplinary action. true not true

6. No official disciplinary proceedings by a professional association or guild are pending against me at the present time. true not true

7. No civil lawsuit alleging actual or attempted sexual harassment, exploitation, or abuse; discrimination; physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct has ever been successfully prosecuted against me, settled out of court, or dropped because the statute of limitations had expired. true not true

8. My driver's license has never been suspended or revoked due to reckless driving, driving while intoxicated, or driving under the influence of controlled substances. true not true

9. I have never been found guilty of, pleaded guilty or no contest to felony criminal charges or had felony criminal charges dropped because the statute of limitations had expired. true not true

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APPENDIX I

ABCOM POLICIES and RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING ORDINATION

- 1) "Candidates who are avowed practicing homosexuals will not be recognized by the Committee on the Ministry." Voted at ABCOM Annual Meeting 10/15/83 as part of the adoption of "Standards."
- 2) "The American Baptist Churches of Maine will not recognize the license or ordination of any avowed and practicing homosexual person." Voted at ABCOM Annual Meeting 10/19/01 as part of "Standards" revisions.
- 3) Resolution: Affirm God's Calling of Men and Women – Voted at ABCOM Annual Meeting 10/18/86
 - "Whereas, The Gospel of Jesus Christ liberates all persons, female and male, to serve in those ministries to which they have been called by God and for which they have God-given talents; and
 - Whereas, for the church to be whole and effective in its witness, it must affirm both women and men of all races as full partners in its ministry; and
 - Whereas, the practice of partnership between women and men can be most effectively taught in the home with the church's active help; and
 - Whereas, both men and women in church and society should share concern for strong family units; and,
 - Whereas, Churches, as well as secular organizations should offer employment and opportunities for all women and men with equal compensation, recognition, and appreciation; and
 - Whereas, men and women who now hold key leadership places in church and society have a special responsibility to act so that women have equal opportunity to move into these positions; and
 - Whereas, Christian men and women have a special call to be advocates and models for children and youth, giving them consistent personal support and encouragement to prepare for positions of leadership in church and society; and
 - Whereas, the church needs to use language that is in harmony with the partnership of women and men, Therefore, Be it resolved that American Baptist Churches of Maine, in light of Biblical standards and Baptist precedents, strive to enable its member congregations to affirm God's calling of men and women to all forms of service in the churches and to provide opportunities for women and men to express fully their gifts."
- 4) Policy Regarding Credentials of Pastors of Churches Leaving the ABC Family – Adopted by the Committee on the Ministry 4/11/88
 - "The American Baptist Churches of Maine wishes to be supportive and helpful to all American Baptist Churches pastors. However, when it is perceived by the professional staff of American Baptist Churches of Maine that a congregation is moving toward terminating its relationship with the ABC/USA:
 - 1) An Area Minister will have a personal conversation with a pastor, and share with him/her our policy that the ordination credentials of a pastor whose congregation has left American Baptist Churches and who continues to pastor that congregation, shall no longer be recognized by American Baptist Churches.
 - 2) The Secretary of the Committee on the Ministry will send a follow-up letter to the pastor, interpreting how the Church action relates to ministerial standing.
 - 3) When representatives of American Baptist Churches meet with officers of the local church to discuss mutual concerns, the matter of ministerial credentials will be incorporated into the conversation.
 - As such time as a congregation votes to leave the ABC, unless the pastor clearly state his/her desire for new placement with in the American Baptist Churches, the Committee on the Ministry will withdraw recognitions of ministerial credentials."

(over)

889 RESOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF MAINE
890 DEFINING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S INTENTION
891 FOR THE EXPRESSION OF HUMAN SEXUALITY
892

893 We live in a time, not unlike times in the past, when there is much confusion over human sexuality, i
894 nature and its appropriate expression. American Baptists have proclaimed themselves to be a people
895 centered in Jesus Christ and committed to the belief that "All Scripture is god-breathed and is useful
896 for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..." (II Timothy 3:16 NIV). In the
897 confusion of this day and age it is important that we give our world and our culture the instruction of
898 Scripture in the area of sexuality; teaching it to ourselves and our children rebuking the world's false
899 teaching, and correcting Christians who are confused by the many voices and opinions calling to ther
900 Therefore we affirm as the clear teaching of Scripture:

- 901
- 902 1. That God, in His creative work, purposely and intentionally made us male and female.
 - 903
 - 904 2. That as part of that intention, described first in the creation accounts and reaffirmed by
905 our Lord's own words, God intended that human beings would come together as male
906 and female exclusively in the bond we label marriage, a relationship of love,
907 commitment, and sexual intimacy between one male and con e female.
 - 908
 - 909 3. That the relationship of husband and wife in marriage is a holy reflection of the
910 relationship of God with his people.
 - 911
 - 912 4. That we have fallen far from God's ideal intention for us in this area as well as in all
913 others.
 - 914
 - 915 5. That God makes clear in both the Old and New Testaments the serious nature of those
916 sins which violate God's intention that the fullest expressions of sexual intimacy should
917 be limited to the "marriage bed."
 - 918
 - 919 6. That Jesus, in dealing with our sinfulness in this, as well as in other area, offers Grace
920 and Forgiveness to those who repent and turn from behaviors which are outside God's
921 intention for us.

922 Therefore:

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 - 925 1. We specifically affirm that the expression of sexual intimacy outside of the female/male
926 marriage bond is forbidden by God.
 - 927
 - 928 2. We affirm that we, as the Bride of Christ, have the responsibility to proclaim this truth
929 to our world and to offer Christ's grace and healing to all persons who struggle with sin
930 in this area of life.
 - 931
 - 932 3. We confess that we have in the past acted without the love and compassion of Christ
933 toward certain classes of sinners in the area off sexual sin.
 - 934
 - 935 4. We covenant to become churches that, as Jesus welcomed publicans and sinners,
936 welcome into our worship all those who are seeking to know Christ. We further
937 covenant to offer our love to all and our support and help in healing and renewal to all
938 those who join us as repentant sinners seeking Christ's forgiveness and renewal of life.
 - 939