

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION For ORDINATION RECOGNITION

GUIDELINES:

- 1) Educational Standards for Ordination
 - A) There are three education/experience tracks toward ordination.
 - 1) The educational standard for ordination is a four-year college degree plus an M. Div. degree from an American Baptist seminary, or its equivalent.
 - 2) An alternate track to ordination includes a combination of education and experience. ABC/USA standards require two years of acceptable pastoral service to be the equivalent of one year of college of seminary training. The maximum experiential equivalency which may be granted is six years, the equivalent of three years of higher education. Alternately, one year of pastoral service may be substituted with core AIM courses whose subject matter the candidate has not covered through his or her education.
 - 3) ABCOM standards utilize the ABCOM Institute for Ministry for establishing another track to ordination. The combination of completing their certificate program or its equivalent and five years of acceptable pastoral service meet the educational standard for this Region.
 - B) Educational preparation in all three tracks must include a course in American Baptist history and polity, and a course in ministerial ethics. The course in ministerial ethics will consider areas such as professional boundary issues, relationships, confidentiality, ethics in financial matters, and other related issues which can dramatically affect the relationship between pastor and people.
 - C) It is the responsibility of the Committee on the Ministry to determine the appropriate recognition by American Baptist Churches of Maine for all candidates for ordination.
- 2) Candidate must be prepared to present to the ABCOM Committee on the Ministry:
 - A) A currently valid ABCOM Commission
 - B) Completed Application (Appendix C)
 - C) Completed Local Church Request (Appendix C.1) and
 - D) A signed copy of the Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)
 - E) A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)

OR

 - A) Proof of Seminary graduation with an M.Div. or its equivalent
 - B) A currently valid license to ministry or ABCOM Commission
 - C) Completed Application and Local Church Request (Appendices C and C.1); and
 - D) A signed copy of the Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)
 - E) A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)

AND
- 3) Give evidence of at least one year of satisfactory pastoral ministry within the American Baptist Churches
- 4) Have prepared for the Committee an "ordination 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.
- 5) 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.

APPLICATION:

1) I request a meeting with the ABCOM Committee on the Ministry to review my readiness for ordination:

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: Day: _____ Evening: _____

LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: _____

PASTOR'S NAME: _____

2) Please attach:

- A) A copy of your ABCOM Commission or License to Minister
- B) A copy of your seminary degree (if applicable)
- C) A copy of your AIM certificate, or verification of equivalencies of other educational component (if applicable)
- D) Verification of completion of a ministerial ethics course
- E) Complete Local Church Request (Appendix C.1)
- F) A copy of your "Ordination Paper"
- G) A complete list (with dates) of pastoral ministry – at least one year must be in an American Baptist church.
- H) A signed copy of the Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)
- I) A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)

3) Send to:

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

4) Candidate will be contacted for a meeting date with the Committee on the Ministry after application has been reviewed by Committee representative.

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