

ABCOPAD COMMISSION ON MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP
GUIDELINES FOR RECOGNITION OF ORDINATION, STANDARD PROCESS AND
NON-STANDARD PROCESS

NOTES: Only those persons meeting current ABCOPAD standards should be Ordained.
The Ordination of persons not meeting those standards will not be recognized by ABCOPAD.

CHECKLIST FOR THE CANDIDATE

THE CANDIDATE SHALL:

1. Be a member in good standing in an ABCOPAD American Baptist Church.
2. Secure from the ABCOPAD Region website (www.abcopad.org) the Application Form (COM-A2), requirements for recognition, and other necessary documents.
3. Complete the Application for Recognition of Ordination (COM-A2) and email to the Pittsburgh Office. If you have any questions call: (1-888-687-0883)
4. Have been Licensed at least six months prior to Ordination by an American Baptist Church, or by a church with which the American Baptist Churches, USA, has an ecumenical relationship.
5. Have completed a Bachelor's degree program (four years of college).
6. Have satisfied (or be nearing completion of) the current educational requirements:
 - For the Standard Process, this is a Master of Divinity program (three year program) from an accredited or Regionally recognized institution.
 - For the Non-standard Process, this is consultation with the Regional Minister and Area Commission Team to develop and complete a Ministry Plan to ensure competency in all areas of ministry.For both processes: Have completed courses in Baptist History and Polity and Clergy Ethics.
7. Have completed the Candidacy Assessment program at the Midwest Career Development Center in Columbus, Ohio.
8. Have participated in at least one year of supervised Field Education.
9. Have received a specific call to a recognized ABCUSA ministry (see the current ABCOPAD guidelines).
10. Have the local church request that the Ordination process be started through the Association Credentials Committee (the Association committee responsible to assist the candidate in preparation for Ordination).
11. Create an Ordination Paper according to current ABCOPAD guidelines. See ABCOPAD Region website (www.abcopad.org)

12. Upon recommendation of the Association Credentials Committee, have the local church request that the Association convene an Ordination Examining Council.
13. Affirm and sign a current copy of “The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of the American Baptist Churches”.
14. Upon recommendation of the Ordination Examining Council, plan a Service of Ordination in cooperation with the local church and your Regional Minister.
15. Ensure that the local church notify the ABCOPAD office of the completed Ordination, using the current ABCOPAD report form (COM-R3) available from the ABCOPAD Region website (www.abcopad.org).

If you have any questions about any part of this process, please call the ABCOPAD office (1-888-687-0883).

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