

ABCOPAD COMMISSION ON MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP
REQUIREMENTS 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 EXAMINING ASSOCIATION

Name of Candidate _____

Ordaining Church _____

1. At the request of the local church, the Association Moderator (or appropriate Association leader) will ask that the Association Credentials Committee (the Association committee responsible to assist the candidate in preparation for Ordination) meet with the candidate.
2. The Association Credentials Committee will meet with the candidate to affirm his/her progress and preparedness, and to offer any necessary advice, suggestions and recommendations. The Committee will ascertain that:
 - a. the candidate has been Licensed for at least six months by an American Baptist Church, or a church with which the American Baptist Churches, USA, has an ecumenical relationship
 - b. the educational requirements have been met (either through the Standard Process or the Non-standard Process)
 - c. the Ordination paper adequately expresses the candidate's views
 - d. the church membership requirements have been met
 - e. the Candidacy Assessment program at the Midwest Career Development Center has been completed.
 - f. the candidate has participated in at least one year of supervised Field Education
 - g. the candidate has a valid call within the American Baptist Churches
 - h. the candidate has affirmed and signed a current copy of "The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of the American Baptist Churches"
3. When the Committee is satisfied the candidate is prepared for an Ordination Examining Council, it shall:
 - a. appoint an Advocate for the candidate who will be present at the Ordination Examining Council
 - b. notify the local church it may set a date for an Ordination Examining Council in accordance with the Association Constitution and current ABCOPAD standards
4. At an Ordination Examining Council called by the local church in accordance with the Association Constitution and current ABCOPAD standards, the Association shall examine the candidate in the areas of:
 - a. educational and training competency for ministry
 - b. ordination paper
 - c. appropriate church membership
 - d. valid American Baptist Churches call
 - e. affirmed and signed a current copy of "The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of the American Baptist Churches".

5. After the Ordination Examining Council and before the Service of Ordination, the Association Moderator will ensure that the results of the Council to the ABCOPAD office using the current ABCOPAD report form (COM-R2) available from the ABCOPAD Region website (www.abcopad.org).
6. At the call of the local church, Association churches will meet for a Service of Ordination.
7. Two weeks after the Service of Ordination, the Association Moderator will check with the local church to make certain the ABCOPAD office has been notified that the Service of Ordination has been held, 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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