

ABCOPAD Commission On The Ministry Revisions  
Proposed by the Commission On Ministry The  
Commission On Ministerial Leadership Of  
The American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware

Composition

The ABCOPAD Commission on Ministerial Leadership shall consist of thirteen people: the President of the Region (or personal representative) and six lay persons appointed by the same, one from each Region Area; the President of the ABCOPAD Ministers Council (or personal representative) and six clergy appointed by the same, one from each Region Area; and the Regional Executive Pastor.

Members shall be appointed by the Presidents for a term of six years beginning the January preceding the next Region Biennial Meeting (even years), the Presidents themselves being the new members on the Commission every other year (odd years), in the following pattern: year 1 two Presidents; year 2 two lay and two clergy persons; year 3 two Presidents; year 4 two lay and two clergy persons; year 5 two Presidents; and year 6 two lay and two clergy persons. Each Area shall be represented by two persons, lay and clergy, striving for age and gender balance and including the ethnic, racial, and vocational diversity in the Region.

Responsibilities

The role of the ABCOPAD Commission On Ministerial Leadership is to represent the wider fellowship of American Baptists in maintaining an orderly and dependable way of making proper recognition of those who minister in the churches and for furthering their ministries. The Commission shall work closely with the Executive Minister.

I. Regular Work of the Commission:

1. Receiving reports from the Association Credentials Committees and churches concerning candidates for certification, licensure, and ordination and acting on them according to the guidelines established by the Region Board;
2. Conferring with candidates requesting recognition of non-ABC ordination, following the established guidelines;
3. Granting the appropriate recognition by listing in the ABCOPAD ministerial register and by letter of certification when requested;
4. Carefully following the guidelines established in "An Ecclesiastical Process For Review Of Ministerial Standing" when there is a request for such review; and
5. Approving appropriate experiences for Continuing Education Units, and encouraging all ministerial leaders to obtain the recommended number of CEUs annually.
6. Maintain regular communication with ACTS, the regional Academy of Christian Training and Service.

## II. Functions of the Commission:

1. The Commission as a whole shall conduct the business charged to the Commission, hear reports from the six Area Commission Teams, and deal with matters without precedent or of a high level of importance such as preparing the recommendation of guidelines and dealing with issues of ministerial misconduct.
2. The two representatives from an Area (Area Commission Team) may be empowered to function for the Commission in Area-related matters such as supporting and resourcing Associations Credentials Committees, with a written report being sent to the Commission at the Region office.
3. The Area Commission Team, staffed by their Regional Executive Pastor, may be authorized to act for the Commission in matters such as credentials reviews, fact gathering, Certified Lay Minister recognition, and questions related to Continuing Education.
4. In the Absence of a functioning Association, The Area Commission Team is authorized to form an adequate credentialing process.
5. Subcommittees of the Commission shall be composed of those serving on the Commission and those asked to serve for a specific task; Commission members shall chair such subcommittees.
6. The Regional Executive Pastor, Commission chairperson, and appointed members of the Commission shall be available to resource one another.

## III. Rules of Procedure:

1. A chairperson and secretary shall be elected annually by the Commission from its membership.
2. The Commission as a whole shall meet at least once a year in the Spring to ensure a regularity upon which the Area Commission Teams can depend upon for making their reports and requests. Additional meetings shall be set by the Commission or at the call of the Chairperson.
3. The Area Commission Teams shall meet as needed.
4. The Commission shall cooperate with other ABCOPAD agencies in the development of ways and means of furthering the training, education, and discipline of ministry.
5. Seven members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for business.
6. Vacancies occurring mid-term shall be filled by appointment of the Appropriate President.
7. Two unexcused absences shall constitute a resignation from the Commission.
8. Appointees shall be ineligible to succeed themselves after serving two Consecutive terms.