

## WHAT CAN A CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER TRACK GRADUATE DO?

A lay minister track graduate of the Institute can be certified by his or her local American Baptist church, after being recommended by the church's Baptist Association. To facilitate this, the graduate should make contact with the chairperson of the Certification, Licensure, and Ordination Committee of the Association and arrange to present a formal paper stating Christian experience, theological beliefs, and call to American Baptist Ministry. He or she should also sign the Covenant and Code of Ethics" of the American Baptist Ministers Council. After the Association recommends it, a certification service can be conducted by the graduate's church. If the local church follows the proper procedures in the certification process, the graduate's certification will be recognized nationally.

After a graduate is certified, he or she may pastor a church, be an associate, youth or interim pastor, do supply preaching, and/or generally work in his or her own church in a more educated and experienced way. Opportunity will be given for the graduate to register with the American Baptist Personnel Services, and this can facilitate the possibility of being called to a regular ministry position.

A graduate who is properly certified has the necessary recognition to perform weddings. When affirmed by the particular local church, he or she also may dedicate children, baptize, officiate at the Lord's Supper, and conduct funerals. A certified graduate usually has the opportunity to do what an ordained person can do.

A person who is not fully ordained should not use the adjective "Reverend" before his or her name. National American Baptist standards for ordination, after which "Reverend" may be conferred, require three years of seminary or similar education and/or experience. The proper recognition which can be used before the certified person's name is "Lay Minister", "Certified Lay Minister" (CLM), or "Pastor."

Generally, a graduate will be well-equipped to conduct quality ministry in the name of Christ.

## The American Baptist CHURCH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE of Western Pennsylvania

### Commencement Service

June 8, 2008

2:00 PM



**Zion Baptist Church**  
**148 Currie Road**  
**Slippery Rock, PA 16057**

A ministry of the American Baptist  
Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware