

ORDINATION: STANDARD PROCESS

- Be a member in good standing of an ABCOPAD American Baptist Church, with support and recommendation of your church to begin the process.
- Complete a Bachelor's degree program (4 years of College).
- Enroll in and complete a Master of Divinity program from an accredited or Regionally recognized institution (3 year program).
- Seek a pre-ordination license from your local church in consultation with the local Association not less than 6 months prior to expected examination for ordination.
- Attend and complete the Candidacy Assessment program at the Midwest Career Development Center.
- Complete courses in Baptist History and Polity and Clergy Ethics (if not part of seminary training).
- Participate in at least 1 year of supervised Field Education.
- Complete an ordination paper and submit to your local Association Credentialing Committee for evaluation.
- Sign "The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches"
- Undergo an Ordination Council. Sufficient affirmation of the Association is required.
- A call to a specific ministry location.

ORDINATION: NON-STANDARD PROCESS

- Be a member in good standing of an ABCOPAD American Baptist Church, with support and recommendation of your church to begin the process.
- For those coming from the CLM track, Permanent Certification is a prerequisite before consideration in the Non-Standard ordination process.
- Complete a Bachelor's degree program (4 years of College).
- Contact the Regional Pastor, who will arrange a meeting with the Area Commission Team. Complete a preliminary application and ministry evaluation.
- Work with the Area Commission Team to develop a Ministry Plan ensuring competency in all areas of ministry. Completion and evaluation of Ministry Plan is necessary before completing following items.
- Seek a pre-ordination license from your local church in consultation with the local Association not less than 6 months prior to expected examination for ordination.
- Attend and complete the Candidacy Assessment program at the Midwest Career Development Center.
- Complete courses in Baptist History and Polity and Clergy Ethics.
- Participate in at least 1 year of supervised Field Education; work with an approved Mentor.
- Complete an ordination paper and submit to your local Association Credentialing Committee for evaluation.
- Sign "The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches"
- Undergo an Ordination Council. Sufficient affirmation of the Association is required.
- A call to a specific ministry location.

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER PROCESS

- Be a member in good standing of an ABCOPAD American Baptist Church, with support and recommendation of your church to begin the process.
- Complete the required courses of the Certified Lay Minister track through the Academy of Christian Training and Service or equivalent program as evaluated by the Area Commission Team.
- Work with an approved Mentor for 2 years and submit their Fitness for Ministry report to your Credentialing Committee.
- Complete courses in Baptist History and Polity and Clergy Ethics.
- Complete a certification paper and, with support of your local church, submit it to your local Association Credentialing Committee for evaluation.
- Sign "The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches"
- Undergo a Certification Council. Sufficient affirmation of the Association is required. When Provisional Certification is granted, complete 6 units of Continuing Education within 3 years to qualify for permanent Certification. After 18 months from the date of Provisional Certification, and if the CEU requirement has been completed, the Certified Lay Minister may then apply for permanent certification status.
- Attend and complete the Candidacy Assessment program at the Midwest Career Development Center prior to your permanent Certification.
- Develop a plan for ministry with your Association Credentialing Committee.

Our Purpose

American Baptist Churches of PA & DE is committed to recognizing the ministry call of men and women and to the effective preparation of those whom God is setting apart as pastors or vocational ministry leaders. We uphold the priesthood of all believers and the giftedness of all of God's people. We also recognize that from within Christ's Body, the Church, that some are called to functions and positions as pastors, teachers and leaders who are gifted to equip the Church for ministry.

The establishment of standards for pastoral and vocational ministry credential is to serve the Church and to encourage the highest development of those who will serve as pastors and servant leaders. These standards are provided to set a pathway for men and women sensing a call to ministry assisting them to find appropriate recognition and context in which to respond to the call that God is placing upon their lives. The processes and standards outlined in this brochure are established to encourage trust, ensure competency and develop pastoral leaders who will serve the Church with great joy and effectiveness. As local American Baptist churches and other ministry organizations seek pastoral leaders it is hoped that these standards will serve as a resource to best recognize those whom God is calling and sending to serve.

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

For further information:

go to -- www.abcopad.org

or contact:

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(888-687-0883)

or

a Regional Pastor

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MINISTRY RECOGNITION
IN THE
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE