

ABCOPAD COMMISSION ON MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP
Steps to become a Certified Lay Minister in ABCOPAD

1. Be a member in good standing of an ABCOPAD American Baptist Church, with support and recommendation of your church to begin the process.
2. Complete the required courses of the Certified Lay Minister track through the Academy of Christian Training and Service – ACTS.
3. Work with an approved Mentor for 2 years and submit their Fitness for Ministry report to your Association Credentials Committee.
4. Affirm and sign a current copy of “The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches”.
5. Complete a certification paper and, with support of your local church, submit it to your local Association Credentials Committee for evaluation.
6. Undergo a Certification Council. Sufficient affirmation of the Association is required.
7. When an Initial 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.
8. Within six months of your intention to seek Permanent Lay Minister Certification, work with the Region Office to schedule and complete the Candidacy Assessment program at the Midwest Career Development Center in Columbus, Ohio.
9. Develop a plan for ministry with your Association Credentials Committee.

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