



A major part of our regional vision is focused on **strengthening** and **building healthy partnerships with pastoral leaders** in order to fulfill Christ's Mission in our world.

*Certification and Ordination*

There is a strong partnership between a candidate for Lay Minister Certification or Ordination and their Association, the Region and the denomination. This is one of the times as American Baptists that we rely on everyone doing their part so that the candidates can reach the finish line! The Regional Pastoral Staff are a big part of this process.

American Baptists celebrate that authority to Certify a Lay Minister or Ordain a Pastor is in the local church. However, from our earliest beginnings of association life Baptist have leaned on each other for best practices. The same is true today.



*Debbie Loessy Certification 2011*

Each regional body (ABCOPAD) in the American Baptist Churches USA sets standards for Certification and Ordination. These standards are carried out through the associations. ABCOPAD has 20 associations or groupings of churches.

Each association has something called a *credentialing committee*. The association committee works with the local church to examine candidates and recommend moving forward when the candidate has met all of the regional criteria for the credentialing they are seeking. The regional pastoral staff assists the associations in this process.

Another important part of this process is a candidate assessment from the Center for Career Development and Ministry. At the Center, candidates go through a psychological assessment as well as counseling to determine their goals and strengths for ministry. The assessment is costly at \$1,850, but we have a grant from the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board to cover \$1,000 of the costs.



*Eleanor Seigrist Ordination 2011*

Colleges, Seminaries, and our own Church Leadership Institutes are graduating people yearly who sense a call to ministry. We seek to partner with each one through these processes. We almost always have about a couple dozen or more people seeking credentialing at some level.

*This is possible through the local church's giving to **Partners in Ministry**. Thank you for your giving and your partnership!*



Your support of our Regional Ministry, "Aids us, to Aid Others." It is through your contributions to Partners In Ministry that we are able to assist pastors, guiding them through the ordination or certification process.

You can give to PIM through:

1. Your local congregation's weekly offering, by designating your gift to ABCOPAD-Partners in Ministry.
2. Through ABCOPAD's Online Giving option, available on the regional website ([www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org)). Your church can receive mission-giving credit for your online gift.
3. Send your check (made out to ABCOPAD) to ABCOPAD, P.O. Box 421, Hatboro, PA 19040.

Thank you for your giving to **Partners in Ministry** and for your partnership as we minister together In Pennsylvania and Delaware.

**THE AMERICAN BAPTIST  
CHURCHES OF  
PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE**

