

ASSOCIATION CREDENTIALS COUNCIL

An Association Credentials Council, comprised of a pastor and two lay persons from each church along with an ABCOPAD Regional Pastor, shall meet to receive a candidate's recognition paper for certification or ordination and examine the candidate regarding his or her call from God, comprehension of Christian doctrine and practice, spiritual gifts, relationship to the church, and future plans. The chairperson of the Association Credentials Committee shall preside and the Association clerk shall record the minutes. The candidate's mentor is encouraged to participate in the process by being a supportive presence and clarifying questions and process. After the Council votes to recommend recognition and the candidate signs "THE COVENANT AND CODE OF ETHICS" for professional church leaders of the American Baptist Church in the U.S.A., the action of the Council shall be reported by the clerk in writing to the candidate's sponsoring church. The Council shall send copies of the candidate's paper and signed COVENANT AND CODE OF ETHICS to the ABCOPAD office. The sponsoring church may then proceed with a recognition service, notifying the ABCOPAD office of its action.