

**ABCOPAD COMMISSION ON MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP**  
**INFORMATION ON RECOGNITION OF LICENSURE, ORDINATION**  
**AND CERTIFICATION**

**APPLICATION** – to begin the process. Use application form COM-A1 for the Licensure process, and application form COM-A2 for the Ordination processes.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION OF LICENSURE PRIOR TO ORDINATION** – for persons in the process of completing their educational requirements for Ordination, expecting to enter the professional ministry of the American Baptist Churches.

1. Requirements for the Licensure Candidate – see checklist form COM-CL1.
2. Requirements for the Licensing Congregation – see checklist form COM-CL2.
3. Requirements for the Assisting Association – see checklist form COM-CL3.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION OF ORDINATION, STANDARD PROCESS AND NON-STANDARD PROCESS** – (1) for persons who have been licensed, have met the educational requirements, have met all ABCOPAD requirements, and have received a call to ministry in the American Baptist Churches (Standard Process); and (2) for persons who have been licensed, have not meet full educational requirements, but have met all ABCOPAD requirements, and have met Ministry Plan requirements (Non-standard Process).

1. Requirements for the Ordination Candidate – see checklist form COM-CL4.
2. Requirements for the Ordaining Church – see checklist form COM-CL5.
3. Requirements for the Examining Association – see checklist form COM-CL6.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION OF PREVIOUS ORDINATION** – for persons Ordained outside the American Baptist Churches, desiring to enter the American Baptist ministry. See checklist form COM-CL7.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION OF CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER** – for lay persons who have completed the Certified Lay Minister track through the Church Leadership Institute, have recognized the distinct call of God to church leadership.

1. Requirements for the CLM Candidate – see checklist form COM-CL9.
2. Requirements for the CLM Church – see checklist form COM-CL10.
3. Requirements for the CLM Association – see checklist form COM-CL11.

**MENTORING** – persons appointed by the Commission on Ministerial Leadership to assist candidates through the Licensure and/or Ordination process.

1. Mentor Standards – see form COM-M1.
2. Mentor Responsibilities – see form COM-M2.

**PERSONAL REFERENCE FORMS** – sent by the applicant to five persons providing personal references for his/her application for Recognition of Ordination. Use form COM-PR.

**REPORT FORMS** – used to report to the ABCOPAD Commission on Ministerial Leadership those licensures, examinations, and ordinations that have been completed.

1. Report of the Licensing Church – use form COM-R1.
2. Report of the Examining Association – use form COM-R2.
3. Report of the Ordaining Church – use form COM-R3.
4. Report of the Certifying Church – use forms COM-R4, COM-R5.

## **SAMPLE PROCEDURES**

1. Sample form for calling an Ordination Council (COM-S1).
2. Sample form for calling a Certification Council (COM-S2).
3. Sample form for an Ordination Council Order of Business (COM-S3).
4. Sample service for Licensure or Ordination (COM-S4).
5. Sample vows for Licensure or Ordination (COM-S5).

Approved March 2009  
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