

November 1, 2018

To all Ordination Candidates in ABCOPAD:

We, the Commission on Ministerial Leadership, rejoice with you as you follow God's call into ordained ministry in our region.

In order to make the two pathways to ordination more equivalent, we now require that all candidates for ordination (whether in the Standard or the Non-Standard process) complete the following steps:

- 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.

This will not change the Non-Standard process because these items were already required there.

This has been added to the Standard Process, which is now:

ORDINATION: STANDARD PROCESS

- Be a member in good standing of an ABCOPAD American Baptist Church.
- Complete a Bachelor's degree program.
- Enroll in and complete a Master of Divinity program from an accredited or Regionally recognized institution (3 year program).
- 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 (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.

We pray that you will find great joy and significance in your ministry.

Always in Grace,

Rev. Tim Munson
Chair, Commission on Ministerial Leadership, ABCOPAD