

ABCOM Committee on Ministry Report
To ABCOM Board
May 2024

The ABCOM Committee on Ministry [COM] consists of representatives from each of our associations, serving three-year terms. At the last annual meeting we were pleased to welcome back to the COM Matt Burden (East) and Joe Everett (York). The MidCoast association is currently not represented because it has not sent someone to serve in this capacity.

The COM is responsible for implementing standards of recognition for ministerial leadership as determined by the ABCOM. Whether it is commissioning or ordination, our focus is to listen for a Call to ministry, and to discern and assess Character and Competency for ministerial service.

In the course of our work, we meet candidates seeking recognition or ordination who come to us from other denominations, as well as from other ABC regions. Too often a lack of understanding of what it means to be an American Baptist as well as a misreading of Maine and ABCOM culture has led to problems in our churches. At our last annual November Retreat, we discussed these issues at length and have now embarked on a project currently titled the ABCOM Orientation Seminar. We have begun work on a series of educational videos to help potential candidates better understand ABCOM's history, polity, culture, mission and the like. While our primary focus is on potential candidates, we hope this series will also benefit local church search committee members, AIM students, current pastors who are presently serving our churches but have no ABC background, and others interested in learning more about ABCOM.

The COM continues to serve our larger ABCOM family through its concern for the character and competency of the ministerial leadership serving our churches.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Pamela Morse
Chair, ABCOM Committee on Ministry