

## RECOGNITION OF NON-ABC ORDINATIONS

### Procedure for Those Whose Ordination is Not Currently Recognized by the ABC/USA Process and Standards

- 1) An ordained minister who desires ABC recognition shall appear before the Committee on the Ministry, by appointment with the secretary, for presentation of the case and credentials. No decision is to be made until the person receives a call to an American Baptist church or a recognized ministry in Maine, and is a member in good standing in an American Baptist church.
- 2) The Committee on the Ministry counseling with the candidate will require that person's recognition be subject to the same standards that apply to those already ordained in ABCOM. Formal recognition shall be subject to a one year period of satisfactory ministerial service in an ABCOM church or recognized ministry. The Committee on the Ministry reserves the right to require candidates to undergo a comprehensive career and candidacy assessment program sponsored by or in consultation with an American Baptist related Career Development Center prior to the Committee's recommendation for an examining council.
  - A) The candidate shall:
    - 1) Present a letter of ministerial standing from the validating religious body, and a description of service with that body. Include why service with that body was discontinued. Provide three references from your previous ministry plus one from the ABCOM church currently being served.
    - 2) Present a written statement of reasons for desiring recognition by American Baptist Churches as well as your intention of loyalty and support of ABC.
    - 3) Include a statement concerning your conversion, call to ministry and view of Christian doctrine.
    - 4) Present a signed copy of the Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G).
    - 5) Present a completed and signed Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H).
    - 6) Confer with the Committee representative concerning personal and educational background, including certification of education and with a course in American Baptist History and Polity.
    - 7) Evidence of the completion of a course in ministerial ethics.
    - 8) Seek an appointment through the Secretary for interview with the Committee on the Ministry.
  - B) The Committee on the Ministry will:
    - 1) Inform the candidate of its action and recommend that appropriate service of recognition be held by the candidate's local church.
    - 2) Forward certification of its recognition to the local Association, the state office of ABCOM, The secretary of this Committee will provide the candidate with a letter signed by the Executive Minister stating that the candidate's previous ordination has been recognized, giving the date of the action. The name of the candidate will be listed appropriately in the Yearbook.

## APPENDIX E

### RECOGNITION OF NON-ABC ORDINATION

#### APPLICATION:

Dear Co-Worker:

Welcome to the American Baptist Churches! We want to share mission and ministry with you. It is the responsibility of the Committee on the Ministry to review credentials of those who choose to seek recognition of ordination by other American Baptist Churches.

Please become familiar with the procedure for recognition, and complete the application below. When completed, please forward to:

Secretary, Committee on the Ministry  
American Baptist Churches of Maine  
PO Box 617  
Augusta, ME 04332-0617

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#### 1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of an American Baptist church? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2) RECOGNITION RECEIVED:

A) Have you been licensed or ordained in some type of ministry?  
If yes, indicate when, where, and by whom.

B) Have you ever been refused recognition by an American Baptist church or agency?  
If yes, indicate when, where, and by whom.

3) EDUCATIONAL HISTORY:

- A) Have you graduated from a high school? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
B) Please list your academic and theological training:

SCHOOL

YEARS ATTENDED

DEGREE

4) MINISTRY WORK HISTORY:

DATES

CHURCH

POSITION

DENOMINATION

5) PLEASE ATTACH:

- A) A letter of ministerial standing from the validating religious body;  
B) Names and addresses of selected references;  
C) A written statement of reasons for desiring recognition by American Baptist Churches, including your intention of loyalty and support of American Baptist Churches' mission and ministry;  
D) A paper of 8 to 10 typed pages, preferably with line numbers, detailing the candidate's conversion and call to ministry, and views on:  
    God: consider including nature and character, Trinity, attributes  
    Jesus Christ: consider including nature (God? Man?), purpose and mission, Trinity  
    Holy Spirit: consider including nature, purpose and mission, Trinity  
    The Bible and its use: consider including views on inspiration, authority, infallibility, inerrancy  
    Baptism: consider including meaning, purpose, and method  
    The Lord's Supper: consider including meaning, purpose, and method  
    The human condition: consider including condition at creation, and subsequent fall, current and eternal consequences  
    Salvation: consider including means, method, results  
    Eschatology  
    The purpose, place and mission of the church in today's society  
    The role of the laity  
    The role of the minister  
    Your commitment in support of American Baptist Churches  
    Your relationship to other pastors and churches  
Consulting a systematic theology as well as your Committee on the Ministry representative is very helpful, if not essential, in producing a satisfactory paper.  
E) A signed copy of the Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G);  
F) A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H);  
G) Evidence that you have had conference with a Committee representative and certified that you have had a course in American Baptist History and Polity and a course in ministerial ethics.

Committee on the Ministry representative signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_