APPENDIX B

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FORM FOR ABCOM COMMISSIONING

GUIDELINES

1. Educational Standards for ABCOM Commissioning
   A. The educational standard for ABCOM Commissioning is related to the ABCOM Institute for Ministry (AIM) certificate program or its equivalent. Equivalencies shall be determined by the Committee on the Ministry (COM).
   B. To receive an ABCOM Commission, the candidate will have graduated from AIM or another COM approved institution having completed the following courses or their equivalents:

Old Testament I and II	Church History
New Testament I and II	Baptist History and Polity
Christian Education	Basic Christian Theology
Pastoral Ethics	Practice of Ministry
Preaching	Mentored Practice I and II
Missions and Evangelism	

2. Documents to be presented by the candidate to the Committee on the Ministry:
   A. A copy of a currently valid local church license.
   B. A letter indicating evidence of at least one full year of satisfactory ministry approved by the licensing church.
   C. Transcripts demonstrating completed educational requirements for an ABCOM Commission.
   D. A letter indicating reasons for seeking an ABCOM Commission.
   E. A theological position paper of 8-10 typed pages, preferably with line numbers, detailing the candidate's conversion, call to ministry, and views on the following:*
      - God, including nature, character, person of the Trinity, and attributes.
      - Jesus Christ, including nature, person of the Trinity, purpose, and mission.
      - Holy Spirit, including nature, person of the Trinity, purpose, and mission.
      - The Bible, including views on inspiration, authority, truth, and interpretation.
      - Baptism, including symbolism, meaning, purpose, and method.
      - The Lord's Supper, including symbolism, meaning, purpose, and method.
      - The Human Condition, including created condition, fall, and consequences of sin.
      - Salvation, including means, essential elements, continuation, and completion.
      - Eschatology, including the second coming of Christ and the final judgment.
      - The Church, including nature, mission, and purpose in today's society.
      - The Laity, including role and ministry.
      - The Minister, including role and ministry.
      - The Candidate's commitment in support of ABCOM and ABC/USA.
      - The Candidate's relationship to other pastors and churches, including non-ABC pastors and churches.
      - * It is important to consult a systematic theology text in preparing this paper. Your Committee on Ministry representative is also a useful resource and should review your paper before submittal.
   F. A signed copy of the current Ministers' Council covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G).
   G. A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H).
   H. References from three persons, including one from the candidate's mentor, approved by the AIM Mentoring Committee (Appendix B.1).

3. To receive a renewal for an ABCOM Commission, the candidate must continue to maintain a relationship with the Committee on the Ministry by meeting with the Committee every five years for a requalifying interview. Application for Renewal of the ABCOM Commission (Appendix B.2) shall be presented to the Committee on the Ministry in each fifth year after Commissioning or renewal of Commissioning, which will schedule a requalifying interview with the applicant.

4. The ABCOM Commission requires maintaining membership in an American Baptist Church.

APPLICATION FORM FOR ABCOM COMMISSIONING

1. I request a meeting with the ABCOM Committee on the Ministry to apply for an ABCOM Commission to Ministry.

   Name: _____

   Address: _____

   Email: _____

   Telephone: Day_____ Evening_____

   Local Church Membership: _____

   Pastor: _____

2. Attached documents:
   A. A copy of a currently valid local church license.
   B. Letter indicating evidence of at least one full year of satisfactory ministry approved by the licensing church.
   C. Transcripts demonstrating completed educational requirements for an ABCOM Commission.
   D. Letter indicating reasons for seeking an ABCOM Commission.
   E. Theological position paper.
   F. A signed copy of the current Ministers' Council covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G).
   G. A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H).
   H. References from three person's including one from the candidate's mentor; approved by the AIM Mentoring Committee (Appendix B.1).

3. I understand that references from three persons, including my mentor, (Appendix B.1) should be completed, signed and mailed by each of them to:

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

The candidate will be contacted for a meeting date with the Committee on the Ministry once the application is reviewed by the Committee representative.

Candidate Signature _____ Date_____

COM Rep. Signature _____ Date_____

APPENDIX B.1

REFERENCE FOR A PERSON SEEKING ABCOM COMMISSIONING

The ABCOM Commission to serve as a Christian Minister certifies that the credentials of the candidate have been examined and approved by the Committee on the Ministry. The Commission is to minister, whether in Pastoral Ministry (as Pastor, Chaplain, Administrator, Counselor, or other pastoral capacity) or in Specialized Ministry (in Christian Education, Youth Work, Music, or some other specialty). The ABCOM Commission will be granted for a period of five years and is renewable.

You have been asked to serve as a reference for _____
_____

who is seeking an ABCOM Commission. Would you complete the questions on this form and mail your response to: Secretary, Committee on the Ministry, ABCOM, PO Box 617, Augusta, ME 04332-0617. We thank you for your cooperation.

Questions for person providing reference:

1. How long and in what ways have you known the applicant? _____
_____
_____

2. What are the applicant's strengths that will be an asset to the work of the Christian Church? _____
_____
_____

3. In what areas of life or ministry do you sense the need for continued growth? _____
_____
_____

4. How has the applicant demonstrated that he or she will continue in personal spiritual and academic growth? _____
_____
_____

5. At this time, as the Committee on the Ministry considers this candidate's request, what is your response to the possibility of affirmative committee action?
_____Highly supportive _____Supportive _____Hesitant
_____Opposed _____Not enough information to react

6. Comments:

Signed _____ Date _____

Address_____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Are you currently an AIM Mentor for this candidate: _____yes _____no 10/24/14

APPENDIX B.2

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF COMMISSIONING

An ABCOM Commission will be reviewed five years following the initial commissioning and every five years later. It is hoped that the renewal process will provide support and accountability for our lay ministry leadership and help to insure called, competent, and committed leaders for our churches.

An ABCOM Commission may be revoked by the Committee on the Ministry following the general guidelines used in the case of an ordained minister.

NAME:_____
ADDRESS:_____
TELEPHONE:_____ DATE OF COMMISSIONING:_____
E-MAIL: _____ DATE OF LAST RENEWAL:_____
MENTOR:_____PHONE:_____ E-MAIL:_____

1. Describe ministry experience since last renewal.

2. Please share with us your current goals for continuing education and ministry as applicable:

   Education:

   Ministry:

3. Please attach a signed copy of the current Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)
4. Please attach a completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)
5. Are you a member of an ABC church? If so, which one?

SIGNATURE:_____ DATE:_____

Committee on the Ministry representative signature_____ Date:___/___/____