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_____