APPENDIX C

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION For ORDINATION RECOGNITION

GUIDELINES:

1) Educational Standards for Ordination
   - A) There are three education/experience tracks toward ordination.
     1) The educational standard for ordination is a four-year college degree plus an M. Div. degree from an American Baptist seminary, or its equivalent.
     2) An alternate track to ordination includes a combination of education and experience. ABC/USA standards require two years of acceptable pastoral service to be the equivalent of one year of college or seminary training. The maximum experiential equivalency which may be granted is six years, the equivalent of three years of higher education. Alternately, one year of pastoral service may be substituted with core AIM courses whose subject matter the candidate has not covered through his or her education.
     3) ABCOM standards utilize the ABCOM Institute for Ministry for establishing another track to ordination. The combination of completing their certificate program or its equivalent and five years of acceptable pastoral service meet the educational standard for this Region.
   - B) Educational preparation in all three tracks **must include a course in ministerial ethics and a course in American Baptist history and polity offered by AIM**. The course in ministerial ethics will consider areas such as professional boundary issues, relationships, confidentiality, ethics in financial matters, and other related issues which can dramatically affect the relationship between pastor and people.
   - C) It is the responsibility of the Committee on the Ministry to determine the appropriate recognition by American Baptist Churches of Maine for all candidates for ordination.

2) Candidate must be prepared to present to the ABCOM Committee on the Ministry:
   - A) A currently valid ABCOM Commission
   - B) Completed Application (Appendix C)
   - C) Local Church Request (Appendix C.1)
   - D) A signed copy of the American Baptist Churches of Maine's Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)
   - E) A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)
   - F) Proof of American Baptist history and polity course through AIM
   - G) A completed and signed copy of the Pre-Ordination Candidate Review (Appendix A-1) (3 Reviewers)
   - H) Select a case study to reflect on during the Committee on the Ministry interview
   - I) Proof of ministerial ethics course.
   - J) A completed and signed copy of the Reference for a Person Seeking ABCOM Commissioning by AIM Mentor (Appendix B-1)

OR

   - A) Proof of Seminary graduation with an M.Div. or its equivalent
   - B) A currently valid license to ministry or ABCOM Commission
   - C) Completed Application (Appendix C)
   - D) Local Church Request (Appendix C.1)
   - E) A signed copy of the American Baptist Churches of Maine's Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)
   - F) A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)
   - G) Proof of American Baptist history and polity course through AIM
   - H) A completed and signed copy of the Pre-Ordination Candidate Review (Appendix A-1) (3 Reviewers)

I) Select a case study to reflect on during the Committee on the Ministry interview
J) Proof of ministerial ethics course.

AND

3) Give evidence of at least one year of satisfactory pastoral ministry within the American Baptist Churches

4) Have prepared for the Committee an "ordination 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, including your understanding, regarding the role in women in ministry
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.

5) 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.

APPLICATION:

1) I request a meeting with the ABCOM Committee on the Ministry to review my readiness for ordination:

NAME:_____ DATE:_____
ADDRESS: _____
_____
EMAIL: _____
TELEPHONE: Day: _____Evening:_____
LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:_____
PASTOR'S NAME: _____

2) Please attach:
   - A) A copy of your ABCOM Commission or License to Minister
   - B) A copy of your seminary degree (if applicable)
   - C) A copy of your AIM certificate, or verification of equivalencies of other educational component (if applicable)
   - D) Verification of completion of a ministerial ethics course
   - E) Verification of American Baptist history and polity from AIM
   - F) Complete Local Church Request (Appendix C and C.1)
   - G) A copy of your "Ordination Paper"
   - H) A complete list (with dates) of pastoral ministry – at least one year must be in an American Baptist church.
   - I) A signed copy of the Ministers' Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (Appendix G)
   - J) A completed and signed copy of the Self-Disclosure and Release Form (Appendix H)
   - K) A completed and signed copy of the Pre-Ordination Candidate Review (Appendix A-1) (3 reviewers)
   - L) Select a case study to reflect on during the ordination interview
   - M) A completed and signed copy of the Reference for a Person Seeking ABCOM Commissioning by AIM Mentor (Appendix B-1) if applicable

3) Send the completed packet to the Committee on the Ministry Representative for review and signature.
   A) Check with representative for submission to Committee on the Ministry

4) Candidate will be contacted for a meeting date with the Committee on the Ministry after application has been reviewed by Committee representative.

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

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