

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut

COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY

**Guided Self-Study of Baptist History and Polity**

With the direction and support of an In Care Pastor, the participant will complete the following:

**STUDY RESOURCES**

I. Readings from study resources: (It is recommended that the participant purchase these resources.)

A. *Baptist Ways: A History*, Bill J. Leonard, Judson Press, 2003;

B. *The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms*, Walter B. Shurden, Cokesbury;

C. Connecticut Baptist History: Read *Our Heritage -- Connecticut Baptists Look at Their History*, by John W. Brush (available at the ABCCONN office);

D. *The Family of God: A Handbook for Adult Disciples of Jesus Christ* – Douglas Beyer; Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA, rev. edition 2007.

*A Pastor/Leader's Guide for the Family of God: A Handbook for Adult Disciples of Jesus Christ* – edited by Irma V. Cruz; Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA;

E. *Women in Ministry: Baptist Roots: A Reader in the Theology of a Christian People*, Anne Hutchinson, pages 122-129; Alice Armstrong, pages 201-206 and *A Biblical Basis for Equal Partnership* brochure; American Baptist Women in Ministry, Valley Forge, PA, October, 2000;

F. *The New Hiscox Guide for Baptist Churches*; Everett C. Goodwin; Judson Press; Valley Forge, PA; 1993. (Read sections 1, 2, 3 & 6).

**SUPPLEMENTAL SOURCES**

*Baptist Roots: A Reader in the Theology of a Christian People*, edited by Curtis W Freeman, James William McClendon, Jr., and C. Rosalee da Silva; Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA, 1999.

*Baptists in the Balance: The Tension between Freedom and Responsibility*; edited by Everett C. Goodwin; Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA, 1997.

*To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson*, Courtney Anderson, Judson Press, 1987;

*A Baptist Manual of Polity and Practice, Second Revised Edition* by Norman H. Maring and Winthrop S. Hudson; David Gregg, Editor; Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA; 2012.

*A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
Harper Collins, 1986.

The ABCCONN Website: [www.abcconn.org](http://www.abcconn.org) for link to Historical Committee information.

The ABCUSA Website: [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)

The Ministers Council Website: [www.ministerscouncil.org](http://www.ministerscouncil.org)

It is also recommended that the participant be aware of and familiar with the following two (2) resources which are available online at [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)

*We Are American Baptists*

*What Do American Baptists Believe?*

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American Baptist Churches of Connecticut

**GUIDE TO UNDERTAKING/USING  
AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORY AND POLITY TUTORIAL**

For candidates unable to participate in an onsite seminary level course related to American Baptist History and Polity, the following tutorial is offered as a substitute for meeting this requirement. This tutorial shall be undertaken with the guidance of an In Care Mentor, assigned in consultation with the candidate, by the Commission on the Ministry.

Believing these to be useful resources and references for persons serving in professional ministry, books noted in A, B, & C of the tutorial shall be purchased by the candidate. Maring & Hudson, and Goodwin's Hiscox Guide, also noted in section G, may be purchased or borrowed for the course of the tutorial.

The In Care Mentor and the candidate shall meet at least monthly for a minimum of 3 months to complete this tutorial. These meetings shall be for the purpose of reviewing material read in the intervening time. It is the responsibility of the In Care Mentor to assign particular texts as they are noted in the tutorial and to insure, insofar as possible, through conversation, that the assigned texts have been read and understood by the candidate.

Note that a brief paper (7-10 pages, see Section II) is required at the close of the tutorial. The paper should cover aspects of Baptist history, Baptist polity, and the uniqueness of the American Baptist denomination (especially in consideration of the candidate's former denominational affiliation). This paper shall be completed by the candidate and presented to the In Care mentor. It may be appropriate in some instances to share the paper with a subcommittee of the Commission on the Ministry.

At the conclusion of the tutorial, the In Care Mentor will write a brief note to the Commission stating that the candidate has effectively met and completed the requirements of the tutorial.

May grace and peace attend your way.

The Commission on the Ministry  
2012

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COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY

**Companion to Guided Self-Study of Baptist History and Polity**

First meeting between candidate and tutor can allow time to get to know each other and to review content and goals of tutorial.

Goals of Tutorial

1. Candidate will gain an overview of the development of Baptist thought, with its origins in Europe and expansions to America.
2. Candidate understands and can express his/her faith story and call in light of Baptist history and distinctives.
3. Candidate has appreciation for the broad diversity within the denomination for gender, culture, ethnicity, and social issues.
4. Candidate is familiar with and can explain American Baptist organizational life and relationships nationally and regionally.
5. Candidate is familiar with ABC print resources available to congregations for study, teaching, and new member incorporation.

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