

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR STANDARD ABCUSA ORDINATION**

1. Licensing by the church in which membership is held, in cooperation with the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut, one year prior to ordination.

2. Education:

- a. 4 years of college and three years of seminary
- b. seminary level course on the history and polity of American Baptists
- c. course/workshop on the uses/abuses of pastoral authority
- d. field education or the equivalent (CPE may also serve as field placement)

3. Types of Service

The candidate shall have definite plans to enter

- parish ministry,
- mission service on the home or foreign field where pastoral functions will be exercised,
- specialized ministries such as institutional, military, academic chaplaincy; pastoral counseling or staff membership in a church-related institution, where preaching, teaching and/or pastoral work is required
- staff service, involving educational or pastoral functions of an American Baptist agency, a council of churches, or some other ecumenical ministry appropriately related to the American Baptist Churches, USA.

Any candidate whose proposed type of service does not fall into one of the above categories may consult with the Commission on the Ministry.

## **STEPS TOWARD ORDINATION**

Participate in the InCare process:

This requires the candidate to submit the InCare application, three letters of reference (two personal and one from his/her pastor) and his/her college or seminary transcript. When these items are received, an appointment will be made for him/her to meet with a subcommittee of the Commission on the Ministry.

After the meeting with the subcommittee, upon their recommendation, the Commission will vote to accept him/her into InCare and appoint a sponsor/mentor/InCare pastor. Candidates are required to participate in the InCare process for at least six (6) months.

During the InCare process, the candidate will:

- (1) be licensed by an ABC church,
- (2) take a course in Baptist history and polity,
- (3) participate in a course/workshop on the uses/abuses of pastoral authority,
- (4) sign the Ministers Council Code of Ethics
- (5) provide evaluation(s) of field placement(s) or the equivalent (CPE may serve as field placement)
- (6) an evaluation at an ABC-approved Center for Career Development and the Ministry, and
- (7) if applicable, the seminary's Middler Review and the candidate's and supervisor's evaluations of CPE

Before ordination, the candidate will:

- (1) provide a copy of seminary transcript detailing MDiv. Degree or its equivalent,
- (2) two letters of recommendation from seminary faculty
- (3) report from InCare sponsor,
- (4) an ordination paper

When all materials are in, the Candidate and his/her sponsor will meet with a sub-committee of the Commission on the Ministry to review the ordination paper. The sub-committee will alert the candidate to any "red flags" that could cause problems in the Ordination Council.

Upon the sub-committee's recommendation, the Commission will recommend to the candidate's local church that it proceed with an Association Ordination Council. This recommendation of the Commission assures that the ordination will be recognized on behalf of the ABCUSA nationally.

Upon completion of the Ordination Council, the local church will proceed with an Ordination Service. (Sample services are available from the ABCCONN Office.)