



The Recommended Process for Ordination (or Recognition of) In the American Baptist Churches of Ohio

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Recommended Process:

1. Contact the *Regional Minister* for a consultation.
 2. Determine the appropriate *ordination track*.
 3. Local church governing board *license* candidate for ministry.
 4. Local church governing board *recommends* candidate to the State Advisory Committee on Ordination for ordination.
 5. Candidate selects a *sponsor/mentor* ABC ordained pastor and/or a pastor currently serving an ABC congregation. Sponsor/mentor maintains contact with the candidate throughout the process.
 6. *Baptist History and Polity Course* (provided by ABC seminaries and Leadership Academy, AB History & Polity ARM, and tutor approved by SACO).
 7. Candidate writes an *ordination paper* fulfilling established guidelines.
 8. *Association Pastoral Relations Committee* conducts the initial review of the candidate and their ordination paper. PRC must recommend the candidate to the State Advisory Committee on Ordination before proceeding.
 9. Candidate must complete the *candidacy assessment program* at the Midwest Ministry Development Center in Columbus. A copy must be sent from the center to the Executive Minister for the State Advisory Committee on Ordination.
 10. *State Advisory Committee on Ordination* completes the second review of the candidate and their ordination paper. Candidates ordination file must be complete before appearing before the SACO. SACO must recommend the candidate to their local Association, before the candidate's church can call an Association Ordination Council.
 11. Candidate's church calls for an *Association Ordination Council*, inviting three delegates from each Association church to attend. Invitation with three copies of the candidate's ordination paper is mailed to each church at least one month in advance of the meeting.
 12. Local Association Ordination Council recommends to the candidate's church to ordain the candidate.
 13. Candidate's church conducts an *ordination service*. Association and Region Representatives should be invited to attend and/or participate.
- * Note – Candidates having their ordination recognized do not need to complete # 11-13.
- * Note – Once candidate has been ordained. The ordaining church needs to send a letter of notification to the American Baptist Churches of Ohio Region Office notifying them of the ordination, so that the pastor's ministerial status can be updated.