

American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains (ABCRM)  
9085 E. Mineral Circle, Suite 170, Centennial, CO 80112

## Guidelines for Ordination Paper

### Purpose of the Paper

The ordination paper is a major reflection on your theological and ecclesiastical beliefs and how they relate to your life and ministry. This paper is not intended to be an exclusively academic paper, though it definitely requires theological reflection. This paper is a tool that will enable the Ministerial Leadership Committee to better understand your theology. The paper should be able to be understood by the average lay person, for theology must be accessible to the laity if it is to be of value in ministry. It is also intended as a tool to help you integrate theology and doctrine in your life and ministry, including how these inform and shape your own spiritual formation and practices. It is not, however, a restatement of your personal faith history.

You will not be able to include everything you think or believe about the topics below. This paper is intended to be a “Here I Stand” paper. What are your essential thoughts about each topic? How do you use Scripture to support your beliefs? This paper will typically be reviewed in one or two meetings with the MLC. Please anticipate a frank and honest discussion of your ideas, thoughts, and theology. In some cases the MLC might ask you to return one or more times to discuss aspects of your paper that they believed needed further clarification or thought. Please refer to [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) or [www.abcrm.org](http://www.abcrm.org) for the basic beliefs of American Baptists.

### Style

For consistency, all candidates are expected to submit their ordination papers in a standard format.

- Submitted electronically in a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf).
- Submitted in an easy-to-read 12 point font, double spaced, with standard one inch margins.
- References and footnotes or endnotes may be used if appropriate.
- Only 15 to 20 pages, excluding cover page, references and notes.
- Each page includes the candidate’s name and the page number.

Papers should **conform to the template** supplied by the Ministerial Leadership Committee, which can be found on the ABCRM web site at <url>. Papers not meeting these guidelines may be returned to the candidate for revision before being circulated to the Committee.

## **Content**

### **Introduction**

A brief description of the ways you relate to the core beliefs, identity and diversity of American Baptist Churches USA. <http://www.abc-usa.org/10facts/>

### **Christian Doctrine and Practices as They Relate to Your Life and Ministry**

The Person of God the Father and Trinity

The Person of Jesus Christ- define what you believe about the Incarnation and the crucifixion and resurrection as well as the significance of each event.

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Humanity, Sin and Redemption- especially articulate your understanding of atonement and salvation

View of Use of Scriptures in Theology

What's Next—What is The Christian Hope and the significance of Eschatology

### **The Doctrine of the Church as It Relates to Your Life and Ministry**

Mission of the Church

Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Ecumenical Aspects of the Church

The Role of the Minister and Laity

Theology and Practice of Worship

### **Conclusion**

In the final section, relate how your theology has been shaped by your context: nuclear family, extended family, and culture. Because the task of theology is to inform how you live and how you do ministry, reflect on how your theology impacts your current context and place of ministry and how it informs and shapes ministry to others.