

Summary of Requirements for Recognition of Ordination In ABC Rochester/Genesee Region

The candidate must...

- Be a member in good standing in an ABCRGR church for at least one year prior to recognition being granted. (Items below may be completed during that timeframe.)
- Provide a letter of sponsorship from home church.
- Complete background authorization check sent to candidate upon onset of process.
- Provide a letter of good standing from the denomination/affiliation that holds the candidate's current ordination.
- Provide documentation of current ordination.
- Provide documentation, if requested, about the ordination process the candidate completed for original ordination for the ORC to assess how it compares to the ABCRGR process. (Requirements below may be adjusted accordingly, or additional items may be required, to assure equivalency.)
- Communicate and meet regularly with assigned mentor throughout the process.
- Sign the ABCRGR ministerial code of ethics.
- Provide official transcripts of M.Div. or equivalent.
- Complete a Center for Ministry review at an ABC-approved center and provide evaluation to Executive Minister. (EM will be sole reviewer to ensure confidentiality.)
- Provide documentation of completion of an approved course in American Baptist History and Polity.
- Complete a Ministerial Boundaries training through ABCRGR or provide documentation of attendance of one in another region or denomination within the last three years.
- Attend Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL), the ABC Biennial Mission Summit, or an ABCRGR event approved for this purpose by the ABCRGR Executive Minister and complete a reflection paper on the experience. Specifications for reflection paper are given in the Recognition Guidelines.
- Complete the statement of faith. Specifications for the statement of faith are given in the Recognition Guidelines.
- Meet with the Ordination Review Committee at least twice: once at the beginning of the process, and once when the ordination paper and all other elements of the process are complete. (Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.)

The home church must...

- Provide a letter of sponsorship about the candidate to the Executive Minister at the onset of the candidate's process. (Form is included in the Recognition Guidelines; candidate must give it to church moderator or church pastor.)
- Provide spiritual support to candidate throughout the process, including regular check-ins with the candidate.

The mentor must...

- Have regularly-scheduled meetings with the candidate for the purpose of:

- Spiritual support
- Encouraging the candidate to attend to all elements of the process in a timely fashion
- Helping the candidate learn ABCUSA and ABCRGR life
- Helping the candidate make connections among her or his colleagues in ABCRGR
- Working with the candidate on the ordination paper
- Sign off on the submission of the candidate's paper to the Ordination Review Committee (an email to Executive Minister is acceptable).
- (May) attend the candidate's conversation with the Ordination Review Committee. The mentor will be invited to give comments at the end of the meeting, prior to the ORC's deliberation.