

LAY PASTOR CERTIFICATION

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE

ABC/NYS has made a particular opportunity available to individuals who wish to pursue lay ministry in more depth. Upon satisfactory completion of the process described below and the appropriate affirmation of an individual's gifts and call to pastoral ministry by the local Association and the individual's congregation, lay pastor certification is given.

Certified Lay Pastor is a denomination-wide term for American Baptists who have successfully completed courses of study and who have met defined requirements.

LAY PASTOR CERTIFICATION PROCESS

A candidate will:

1. Earn the Certificate in Lay Pastoral Studies offered by the ABCNYS Lay Study Program
2. Meet with the Association Committee on Ministry (or a representative member) to discuss certification requirements
3. Maintain active membership in an ABCNYS church
4. Provide to Association Committee on Ministry names and addresses of three references (current pastor and two others)
5. Receive through the Association Committee on Ministry the endorsement of local church leadership
6. Submit a paper of 3-4 pages to the Chairperson of Association Committee on Ministry. This paper should describe and reflect your biblical and theological understanding of:
 - ◇ Faith Journey
 - ◇ Understanding of Lay Pastoral Ministry
 - ◇ Understanding of Christian Faith
 - ◇ Personal Commitment to American Baptist Churches (including it's goals and mission).
7. Submit a signed copy of the Ministers Council Code of Ethics
8. Submit a signed copy of the Statement of Personal Conduct
9. Provide evidence that candidate has satisfactorily completed training approved by ABCNYS on boundaries, ethics, and standards of behavior.
10. Meet with Association Committee on Ministry for final review.

- a. Certification will be recommended, denied, or postponed for further review and the action taken will be reported to the ABC/NYS Committee on Ministry.
- b. If the Association recommends certification, the ABC/NYS Committee on Ministry will act on the recommendation.
- c. Upon approval for certification by the ABC/NYS Committee on Ministry, the individual's Association Moderator will be notified so that an appropriate service can be scheduled in the Association. The Association presents the Certificate of Lay Pastoral Ministry, a Regional Certification.
- d. If certification is denied and the individual wishes to appeal, a letter of appeal may be sent to the chairperson of the ABC/NYS Committee on Ministry.

12/1/20