## American Baptist Church (ABC)

### Resources

- **Recommended Procedures for Ordination:**

### Contacts:

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- **Rev. Dr. Andrea C. White**, Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York.

### Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements*

#### Summary of recommended ordination standards:

1. **Licensing** (if pursued, by a local American Baptist congregation in coordination with their regional department of ministry)

2. **Education†**
   a. Options:
      i. **Track I: Seminary** – 4 years of college and an M.Div from an accredited seminary
      ii. **Track II: Equivalency** – equivalent degrees or experience with a maximum substitution of 6 years of full-time ministry equal to 3 years of higher education
      iii. **Track III: Lay Pastor** – regional or seminary lay pastor program from the US or another country, plus 3 years of full-time ministry experience
   b. Coursework in American Baptist history and polity; professional ethics
   c. Affirmation of the Covenant and Code of Ethics of ABC Ministers Council
   d. Candidacy Assessment: complete at Ministry Development Council Career Center

3. Meet with regional department of ministry prior to licensing (if pursued) and prior to ordination

4. Ordination Council meeting

5. Ordination Service

* Ordination requirements may vary by region and church/pastor.

†Track I is considered the standard track toward ordination and is the most recommended option among ABC regions. Any candidate wishing to pursue Track II or Track III MUST secure the written permission of the regional department of ministry PRIOR to entering either of these tracks and meet all requirements.

### Coursework Required*

- American Baptist history and polity
- Professional ethics

For Metro New York region, there is an ordination orientation every fall, usually in September. Contact the regional office for more information.

* Requirements may vary by region and church/pastor.