

American Baptist Church (ABC)

Resources	Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements*	Coursework Required*
<p><i>Recommended Procedures for Ordination:</i> https://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/procedures-for-ordination.pdf</p> <p><u>Contacts:</u> Rev. Dr. Cheryl F. Dudley (cdudley@abcmny.org) Regional Executive Minister, ABC Metro New York Office 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 432 New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-3195</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Violet Lee (violet@christchurchnyc.org) Ordination Council Member, ABC Metro New York <i>and</i> Adjunct Professor / Visiting Lecturer, Union Theological Seminary</p>	<p><i>Summary of <u>recommended</u> ordination standards:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensing (if pursued, by a local American Baptist congregation in coordination with their regional department of ministry) 2. Education[†] <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Track I: Seminary</i> – 4 years of college and an M.Div from an accredited seminary ii. <i>Track II: Equivalency</i> – equivalent degrees or experience with a maximum substitution of 6 years of full-time ministry equal to 3 years of higher education iii. <i>Track III: Lay Pastor</i> – 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 <p>* Ordination requirements may vary by region and church/pastor.</p> <p>[†] Track I is considered the standard track toward ordination and is the most recommended option among ABC regions. Any candidate wishing to be 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● American Baptist history and polity ● Professional ethics <p>For Metro New York region, there is an ordination orientation every fall, usually in September. Contact the regional office for more information.</p> <p>* Requirements may vary by region and church/pastor.</p>

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ, DOC)

Resources	Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements*	Coursework Required*		
<p><i>General Commission on Ministry Documents:</i> https://disciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/TFPCOM-Final.pdf</p> <p><u>Contacts:</u> Rev. Thaddaeus Burwell Allen thaddaeus1969@gmail.com Regional Minister, Northeast Region Office 1402 Washington Ave. Parkersburg, WV 26101 Office: (304) 428-1681 Cell: (304) 633-2428</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Daisy Machado dmachado@uts.columbia.edu Professor of Church History, Union Theological Seminary</p>	<p><i>Steps for Candidacy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Membership and active participation in a local congregation for at least one year.* ● A letter of recommendation/endorsement from local congregation to the Commission on Ministry of the Region. ● Meet regularly with the Regional Commission on Ministry and provide a statement of faith, theological beliefs, and explanation of call to ministry/ordination. <p><i>Educational Requirements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seminary Track** – completion of an M.Div or its equivalent from a theological school accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the U.S. and Canada or its equivalent. ● Apprentice Track – completion of a program of study of at least 250 contact hours approved by the Region. <p><i>Act of Ordination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Under the authorization and guidance of the sponsoring congregation and the Region, with the Regional Minister (or designee) presiding. <p>Candidates are evaluated on the following Areas of Competency:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biblical Knowledge ● Church Administration & Planning ● Communication ● Cross Cultural & Anti-Racism Experience ● Ecumenism ● Education & Leader Development ● Ethics ● Evangelism </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mission of the Church in the World ● Pastoral Care ● Proclamation of the Word ● Spiritual Development ● Stewardship ● Theology ● Understanding of Heritage ● Worship </td> </tr> </table> <p>*Ordination requirements may vary by congregation and Region.</p> <p>** Candidates are encouraged to follow the seminary track.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biblical Knowledge ● Church Administration & Planning ● Communication ● Cross Cultural & Anti-Racism Experience ● Ecumenism ● Education & Leader Development ● Ethics ● Evangelism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mission of the Church in the World ● Pastoral Care ● Proclamation of the Word ● Spiritual Development ● Stewardship ● Theology ● Understanding of Heritage ● Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DOC polity and history <i>at an approved institution</i> ● One Unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)* ● Sexual Ethics Boundary Training† <p>* This is a requirement for the Northeast Region. Each Region’s requirements may vary.</p> <p>† The following one-day continuation education trainings are typically required for clergy (especially in the Northeast Region) on a rotating annual basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Year 1: DOC History and Polity (basically a review) ● Year 2: Healing and Reconciliation (Mediation) ● Year 3: Anti-racism Pro-reconciliation Training ● Year 4: Boundary training, including sexual, financial, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biblical Knowledge ● Church Administration & Planning ● Communication ● Cross Cultural & Anti-Racism Experience ● Ecumenism ● Education & Leader Development ● Ethics ● Evangelism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mission of the Church in the World ● Pastoral Care ● Proclamation of the Word ● Spiritual Development ● Stewardship ● Theology ● Understanding of Heritage ● Worship 			

Episcopal Church

Resources	Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements*	Coursework Required*
<p><i>Constitution & Canons</i>, “Title III: Ministry” (see Canon 8: “Of the Ordination of Priests” starting on pg. 79) https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/attached-files/candc_2012pp67-125_1.pdf</p> <p><u>Contacts:</u> Rev. Canon Charles W. Simmons (csimmons@dioceseny.org) Canon for Ministry, Diocese of New York 1047 Amsterdam Avenue New York, NY 10025 (212) 316-7416</p> <p>Miguel Escobar (mescobar@uts.columbia.edu) Director of Anglican Studies, Union Theological Seminary</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a baptized Episcopal member, <i>aspirant</i> starts conversation with their parish (usually clergy, then parish committee), who will reflect and decide whether to recommend to Diocese. 2. If recommended to Diocese by parish, the <i>aspirant’s</i> file is reviewed by the Bishop, who will interview <i>aspirant</i> after they are interviewed and recommended by a Commission on Ministry (or equivalent body). If approved to become a <i>postulant</i>, Bishop decides a training program in conversation with <i>postulant</i>. 3. In the course of formation, the <i>postulant’s</i> file is reviewed again by the diocesan Commission on Ministry and the Bishop, who may approve progress from <i>postulant</i> to <i>candidate</i> for Holy Orders. This will typically happen between one and two years after admission as a <i>postulant</i>. 4. General Ordination Examinations are usually taken in last year of theological study. <p>* See your Diocese’s overview of the discernment process (i.e., for New York, visit: https://www.dioceseny.org/christian-life/ministry-office/discernment-for-ordination-as-a-priest/) and the <i>Constitution & Canons</i> for details.</p>	<p>Although required courses will vary by individual (as determined by Bishop), courses on Episcopal polity and canons are typically a minimum. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is often required. It is also helpful to take classes on the Episcopal church history, liturgy, and in the following areas tested on the General Ordination Examination (GOE) (see http://www.episcopalgbec.org/):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scripture ● Church History including the Ecumenical Movement ● Christian Theology including Theology and Missiology ● Christian Ethics and Moral Theology ● Studies in Contemporary Society, including Racial and Minority Groups ● Liturgics and Church Music ● Theory and Practice of Ministry <p>The Diocese will also require candidates to complete its own training program in anti-racism, prevention of sexual misconduct in ministry, and the disciplinary canons (‘Title IV’) of the Episcopal Church.</p> <p>* Ordination requirements vary by bishop and diocese (usually based on individual needs). One year at an Episcopal seminary (following Union) in not an uncommon requirement.</p>

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Resources	Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements*	Coursework Required*
<p><i>ELCA Candidacy Manual:</i> https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Candidacy%20Manual%202018.pdf?_ga=2.174590305.2120912673.1559783118-295234941.1559783118</p> <p><i>ELCA Candidacy Resources:</i> http://www.elca.org/Resources/Candidacy</p> <p><u>Contacts:</u> Bishop Donald J. McCoid (dmccoid@verizon.net) Interim Bishop, Metro New York Synod 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1620 New York, NY 10115 (212) 665-0732</p> <p>Rev. Michael Cooper-White (mcooperwhite@uts.columbia.edu) Director of Lutheran Formation, Union Theological Seminary</p> <p>Rev. Dr. J. Elise Brown (pastorbrown@adventnyc.org) Executive Minister, Marble Collegiate Church 1 West 29th St. at 5th Ave. New York, NY 10001</p>	<p><i>While at Union:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Affiliate with ELCA seminary (“affiliation seminary), if at non-ELCA seminary (like Union). <p><i>After graduating with M.Div. degree from Union, complete:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One-year internship, placement and supervision through affiliation seminary. ** One year of study at affiliation seminary, which provides the theological education that covers the ELCA “church’s understanding of the gospel, the ministry of this church as expressed in the historic Lutheran Confessions, and the mission of Christ’s church in today’s world...” <p>** Depending on arrangements with affiliation seminary and Union, one-year internship may be completed between the second and third (final) years of the M.Div. degree program.</p> <p><u>Additional ordination requirements:</u>*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Membership of ELCA church for one year. ● Start candidacy process by completing the Congregational Registration Form with a synod. This online “entrance” form needs to be signed by both the church pastor and Congregational President. ● See Candidacy Manual (link under “Resources”) for details of process. ● Must have “a call” (placement) to be ordained. <p>* Requirements for ELCA ordination vary by synod. The above expectations are typical of the Metro NY Synod. Confirm requirements with your “home synod” (where you want to do your candidacy).</p>	<p><u>M.Div. Degree, including:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greek required; Hebrew recommended ● One unit of Supervised Clinical Ministry (or Clinical Pastoral Education, CPE) ● Boundaries Workshop

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Resources	Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements*	Coursework Required*
<p><i>Book of Order: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II: 2017/2019</i> (see G-2.06-2.07, pages 34-36): http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/book-of-order2017-electronic_updated110117.pdf</p> <p><i>Advisory Handbook for Preparation for Ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):</i> https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/pcusa-cpm_advisory_handbook_rel.2.1.pdf</p> <p><i>Presbytery of New York's Handbook for Inquirers and Candidates:</i> https://static1.squarespace.com/static/594b12dad1758e31f8f3229c/t/5977dec586e6c0db236e4bfe/1501028038276/CPM-Handbook-2012.pdf</p> <p><u>Contacts:</u> Rev. Greg Horn (greghorn@pcum.org) Pastor & Head of Staff, The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair; Advisor to Presbyterian Students at Union Theology Seminary / Auburn Theological Seminary</p> <p>Presbyterian students at Union have the added support of: Auburn Theological Seminary 475 Riverside Drive, #1800 New York, NY 10115</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must be a member of a church for at least six months. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enter “<i>Inquiry</i>” phase: tell board (“session”) and pastor, who must vote to take you “under care.” Complete online forms and answer questions in front of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, which refers you to Presbytery to be enrolled as an Inquirer. 2. “<i>Candidacy</i>” process will be governed by Committee on Preparation for Ministry (see <i>Advisory Handbook</i>). Candidacy can be completed once service in a church, academic work (including graduation from seminary with “satisfactory grades” and coursework required), and ordination exams are completed. ● Ordination Exams <i>Usually taken as “Inquirer”:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bible Content Exam <i>Usually taken during “Candidacy”:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Open Book Bible Exegesis 3. Theological Competence 4. Worship & Sacraments 5. Church Polity ● Must have “a call” (placement) to be ordained. <p>* Requirements vary by Presbytery, which is who ordains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presbyterian/Reformed theology, worship & sacraments, church polity (<i>to prepare for Ordination Exam</i>) ● Hebrew and Greek ● Exegesis of Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek (<i>usually with additional Bible classes</i>) ● Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is often required* <p>* Requirements vary by Presbytery. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry for one’s Presbytery will determine the specific academic and church service requirements for each individual.</p>

Reformed Church in America (RCA)

Resources	Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements	Coursework Required
<p><i>The Book of Church Order, 2018</i> (see articles 11-17, pages 44-61): http://images.rca.org/docs/bco/2018BCO.pdf</p> <p><i>Reformed Church in America website:</i> https://www.rca.org/</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Rev. Amy Nyland (newyorksynod@gmail.com) Executive Minister, Regional Synod of New York 42 N. Broadway Ave. Tarrytown, NY 10591 (914) 332-1311</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal call/External call—a personal sense of call affirmed by the church. 2. Local church consistory (governing body) applies on behalf of the applicant to the classis (regional governing body). 3. Candidate appears before the classis or its committee for an interview. 4. Classis petitions the General Synod (national governing body) for a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry, which will be issued upon completion of all requirements by the candidate no sooner than 24 months* after the petition is received. 5. Completion of seminary training** (Master of Divinity degree). 6. Licensure and Ordination. <p>* In instances where the applicant has completed theological training prior to the required period, the classis may petition to substitute a period of ministry supervised by the General Synod for all or part of its 24 month requirement.</p> <p>** Candidates of ministry who have received an M.Div. from non-Reformed Church seminaries will need to furnish the following: an M.Div degree or its equivalent from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (or a theological accrediting agency of comparable standards); a transcript of the applicant's seminary record; and evidence of confessing membership in a Reformed church of the classis making petition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● History, theology, & church order of the Reformed Church in America ● Hebrew and Greek

United Church of Christ (UCC)

Resources	Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements*	Coursework Required*
<p><i>Manual on Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the UCC 2018</i> (see section 2, pages 19-137): https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/ManualonMinistry-2018.pdf</p> <p><i>Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministers:</i> http://uccfiles.com/pdf/THE-MARKS-OF-FAITHFUL-AND-EFFECTIVE-MINISTERS.pdf</p> <p><i>Ministry in the UCC: A Background Document (2010):</i> http://www.ucc.org/ministers/ministry-issues/Ministry-in-the-United-Church-of-Christ-A-Background-Documents.pdf</p> <p><i>UCC Constitution:</i> https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/UCC_Constitution.pdf</p> <p><u>Contacts:</u> Rev. Dr. Renee Jackson (Jacksonr@ucc.org) Minister for Ministerial Formation, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA) (216) 736-3842</p> <p>Rev. David R. Gaewski (davidgaewski@uccny.org) New York Conference Minister</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After being a member of a local UCC church for 1-2 years (length varies), get the support of local church and become “Member in Discernment” (MID). Association will vote to affirm and then review theological education, preparation, and “Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministers”; recommendations made for further preparation will be based on the individual. MID is given and meets with a mentor. ● Write a paper demonstrating your “theological perspective and grasp of the historic Christian faith,” “knowledge and understanding of the history, theological roots, polity, and practice of the United Church of Christ,” and your sense of call to ordained ministry (Presented to Ecclesiastical Counsel of the Association after oral exam). ● Oral Ordination Exam (usually two hours) assesses “knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ”. ● Must have “a call” (placement) to be ordained. <p>* Requirements vary by regional Association.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● History and polity of UCC ● Bible, systematic theology, church history, worship, pastoral care and counseling, administration, church education, interfaith; church finance, in some cases. ● Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)** ● Boundary Training <i>is usually required</i> <p>* Requirements vary by regional Association.</p> <p>** CPE is required by New York Metropolitan Association at least.</p>

United Methodist Church (UMC)

Resources	Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements*	Coursework Required
<p><i>The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016:</i> http://nmoumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2016-Book-of-Discipline.pdf</p> <p><i>General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's "Candidacy" website:</i> https://www.gbhem.org/clergy/candidacy</p> <p><i>Licensed and Ordained Ministry Credentialing Requirements 2016:</i> http://www.bomlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/FinalStepsFormatted2017.pdf</p> <p><u>Contacts:</u> Rev. Robert Foltz Morrison (ep@presbynyc.org) Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of New York 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1600 New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2221</p> <p>Rev. Dr. James (K) Karpen (K@stpaulandstandrew.org) Senior Pastor, St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write letter to District Superintendent (cc pastor and DCOM [District Committee on Ordained Ministry] chair). Include your interest in ordained ministry, that you have met with your pastor to discuss <i>Christian as Minister</i>, and your call narrative. 2. Work with assigned mentor on Candidacy Guidebook, register with General Board of Higher Education, register with Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM). 3. Declare call publicly before pastor and staff/parish relations committee (of local church), who will vote to recommend you to Charge Conference (local church), who will vote to recommend you to District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM). 4. Meet with DCOM, submit to them required writing, have a background check, complete psychological exam, attend UMC sexual ethics and anti-racism trainings. Gain DCOM approval. 5. Gain (first) BOOM approval. 6. Finish seminary with required coursework and trainings. 7. Voted on at Clergy Session of Annual Conference. 8. Commissioned by the Bishop of Annual Conference, thus becoming a Provisional Member of Annual Conference. 9. Go through residency program in your annual conference (usually 2-3 years after completing seminary, although it varies) and gain (second) BOOM approval 10. Elected by the Clergy Session into full membership of the Annual Conference. Ordained as an Elder by a Bishop.** <p>* Based on summary provided by Rev. Dr. James (K) Karpen. While procedures are denomination-wide, requirements may vary slightly by conference.</p> <p>** Ordination as Deacon follows a similar process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● United Methodist doctrine, polity, and history (6 credits) ● Evangelism and the mission of the church in the world (not necessarily "Methodist") ● Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)* ● Old Testament ● New Testament ● Theology ● Church history ● Worship/liturgy ● Sexual Ethics / Boundary training (one day, provided by UMC) ● Anti-racism training** <p>* CPE is required in the New York Conference for ordination as Elder.</p> <p>** Required along with completion of Masters of Divinity prior to Commissioning in New York (see steps 6-8)</p>

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

Resources	Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements	Coursework Required*
<p><i>Requirements for Ministerial Fellowship:</i> https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/requirements_mfc.pdf</p> <p><i>Appendix to Requirements for Ministerial Fellowship:</i> https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/requirements_mfc_appendix.pdf</p> <p><i>UUA website:</i> https://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/becoming</p> <p><u>Contacts:</u> Rev. Megan Foley (mfoley@uua.org) Regional Lead, Central East Region</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant – people in contact with the Ministerial Credentialing Office. 2. Aspirant* – applicants who successfully complete the required paperwork, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Initial Inquiry Form ● Interview Form ● Transfer/Plural Standing Forms (if applicable) ● Evidence of acceptance to a theological school or graduation from theological school with submission of all official transcripts from prior graduate level academic preparation ● Signed Application for Candidacy form ● Completed Criminal Background Check (effective January 1, 2019) ● Congregational sponsorship (Statement of Congregational Sponsorship) 3. Candidate – aspirants who complete their career assessment, have completed at least one year of theological school, and have completed a field education or clinical pastoral education (CPE) experience. 4. Preliminary Fellowship – candidates who successfully interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) and are found to completely fulfill requirements are granted this standing. Ordination occurs after Preliminary Fellowship is granted. <p>* Aspirant status is active for seven years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preaching/Worship Arts ● Liberal and/or Liberation Theologies ● Pastoral Care ● Religious Education Theory; Method/Practice ● Hebrew & Christian Scriptures ● Religious Ethics ● Anti-Racism / Anti-Oppression / Multiculturalism ● Church Administration or Nonprofit Management & Leadership ● UU History; UU Polity; History of Christianity ● World Religions ● Field Education or Internship ● Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) <p>* As fitting within the seven areas of MFC ministerial competencies, which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worship and Rites of Passage 2. Pastoral Care and Presence 3. Spiritual Development for Self and Others 4. Social Justice in the Public Sphere 5. Administration 6. Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith 7. Leads the Faith into the Future <p>There are also required reading lists for each competency area (see <i>Appendix</i> for comprehensive list).</p>