

Dear Professional Church Leaders:

As Baptists, we believe the local fellowship of believers should nurture, call out, affirm, support (financially and spiritually), validate, pray for, and finally, lay hands on a candidate for the Christian ministry in the solemn act of ordination. While this “called out one” serves as a minister of that local congregation, they are accountable for the performance of ministry to that ordaining body.

Though not always, most of the time a minister leaves the membership of the ordaining church to seek placement in the broader fellowship of American Baptist Churches (or its affiliated missions or agencies) that minister becomes accountable to the Region for continuing validation of their “standing” with the wider fellowship. Thus, “standing” or “recognition” of an ABC-MI Professional Church Leader (ordained, commissioned, or lay) is granted each year by the ABC-MI Commission on Ordination and Standing. A Professional Registry is then compiled to reflect a current listing of persons within ABC-MI who have professional standing and/or recognition.

If you have been or would like to be listed in the 2023 Annual Professional Registry, please complete the appropriate sections of the document and return it to the Region Office no later than Monday, February 28, 2023.

PLEASE NOTE: If you completed this form last year, and your name is listed in last year’s Registry, and your status or information HAS NOT CHANGED, you need only complete the contact information at the top of the first page and check the box for “no change.” If you did NOT complete this form last year, your name would not be in last year’s Registry.

Therefore, you must complete and return the entire form.

Quick point of clarification on what constitutes a Professional Church Leader (ordained or non-ordained):

- Hold their membership in an American Baptist Church that is affiliated with ABC-MI
- Serve in a professional capacity in an American Baptist church or ministry-related setting at least 20 hours per week and receive some monetary compensation for your service.

Two Exceptions to what constitutes a Professional Church Leader

- Retired ABC-MI clergy are not required to hold a current membership in an ABC-MI church.
- Licensed candidates, seminary students, retired clergy, and those currently waiting for placement need not meet the 20 hours a week/compensation threshold. They do, however, need to complete and return the entire form.

A valid and essential question in this moment would be, “What’s the point of being listed in the Annual Registry?”

- Open Doors – grants and scholarships within ABC-USA often require recipients to be listed in the Professional Registry.
- Accurate Information – The Region Office seeks to serve and support our churches. We do that best when our information is up to date and accurate.
- Bestowing Honor –Your ministry is worthy of honor, and we hope to reflect that in our Professional Church Registry, acknowledging the hard work you’ve undertaken and the responsibility you now carry out.

If you have any questions when filling out this form, please contact Danielle Doyle, Director of Mission Support, at:
danielled@abc-mi.org.

Please return your completed form to : danielled@abc-mi.org no later than Monday, February 28, 2023.

If you would like to fill out this form online, please go to abc-mi.org/annualforms, there you will find a link to this form as well as the annual report and delegate form.

Thank you for taking the time to complete these forms. Have a blessed day.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Brian D. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Rev. Brian Johnson



2023 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL REGISTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

American Baptist Churches of Michigan
Commission on Ordination and Standing

Date: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am listed in last year's registry and there is NO CHANGE

If you were **not listed** in last year's registry or there are **changes** you wish to report, please complete the following sections:

CURRENT MINISTRY

What is your position or title?

Where does your ministry take place?

If your ministry takes place outside of an ABC-related church, institution or organization, please list it here:

In what church do you hold membership?

Do you work 20 or more hours per week in your current professional ministry?

Do you receive monetary compensation for this work?

Is your current ministry your primary vocation?

If not, please list your primary vocation:

PLEASE SELECT THE CATEGORIES THAT APPLY.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time Active Clergy | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordained Clergy | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Lay Professional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Vocational Clergy | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Clergy | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ordained Professional Church Leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired Clergy | <input type="checkbox"/> Seminarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

See other side

CURRENT STATUS

AMERICAN BAPTIST RECOGNITION

Do you have current ABC recognition of ordination? Yes No

ABC Region in which ordination was recognized: _____ Date of recognition(mo/day/year): _____

If you are an institutional or military chaplain or pastoral counselor, are you endorsed by the ABC,USA Committee on Chaplains & Pastoral Counselors? Yes No _____ Date of endorsement(mo/day/year): _____

NON-ABC RECOGNITION

Do you have current ordination / recognition / standing in a non-ABC denomination or church? Yes No

If so, please list the denomination or church: _____

Date (mo/day/year) _____ and place _____ in which ordination / recognition / standing was granted.

EDUCATION

From what college or university did you graduate?

Degree:

Graduation Year:

Are you a seminary graduate? Yes No

Name & Location of Seminary:

Degree:

Graduation Year:

Were you granted equivalency to educational requirements for ordination by an American Baptist Church or Region?

Yes No

If so, please list name of church or region:

Are you a Certified Lay-Professional? Yes No

If so, please list the church or Region which granted lay professional status:

Date of certification: (mo/day/year)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Gender: Female Male

Date of Birth:

Ethnicity (Check as many as apply): American Native Asian Pacific African American Euro-American
 Haitian Hispanic Multi-Racial Other

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM BY February 28, 2023

Email to danielled@abc-mi.org | fax to 517.332.3186 | mail to ABC-MI at 4578 S. Hagadorn Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823