



Ministerial Ordination: Why and How

“I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Timothy 6:13-14).

God graciously gifts the church all things essential to bring God’s people to maturity and conformity with Christ. This includes the gifting and calling of individuals to ministerial leadership.

Ordination is the church’s way of formally recognizing and individual’s gifting and calling to ministry. Through ordination, the local church declares to the world that a person has been duly tested and found worthy of the church’s endorsement.

“Here is a trustworthy saying: ‘Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task (1 Timothy 3:1).”

Because we believe in the autonomy of the local church, each church sets its own standards for ordination. These standards vary widely, but because our churches cooperate in ministry, we have also established region-wide standards for ordination. ABC-MI recognition of ordination declares to the world that a person has met regional standards and is worthy of the Region’s endorsement. Regional recognition entails reciprocal recognition of ordination throughout ABC-USA.

The How of Ordination

Regional recognition of your ordination begins in the local church. We believe that God gifts his people with discernment, so that ordination is not of any one person’s decision. If after much prayer and consideration, your church leaders also sense God’s calling on your life, and can vouch for your faith in Christ, your good reputation, emotional stability, leadership, and ability to communicate the word of God, and if you are an active member in the church, the church is to issue you a pre-ordination license (renewable yearly) and provide counseling for Christian ministry and opportunities to preach and lead worship. The church is to notify ABC-MI of all licensing so that your name may be recorded in the Registry of Professional Church Leaders of ABC-MI and a watch-care program initiated.

ABC-MI Ordination Standards

Regional standards for recognition of your ordination include adequate preparation for competent ministry. As a result, ABC-MI may confidently recommend you serve in our churches or in institutions as chaplains. These standards and the process for ABC-MI recognized ordination can be viewed in a document titled, “Process for ABC-MI Recognition of Ordination.”

Click link to go to “Ordination Process”

https://www.abc-mi.org/_files/ugd/f054aa_a2712d357b934aba8a64d2c07215263c.pdf