

Updated August 2009
REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE MINISTRY
Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches

SECTION 3: RECOGNITION OF PRIOR ORDINATION

3.1 Within Canadian Baptist Ministries

Ordination within the framework of the Conventions/Unions comprising Canadian Baptist Ministries carries with it full transfer privileges to the list of *Accredited Ordained Ministers*, providing the minister is recommended by a letter of transfer from that Convention/Union.

3.2 Within the Baptist World Alliance

Ministers who are ordained, and recommended by a body in fellowship with the Baptist World Alliance, shall submit an application to meet with the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education. The application shall include their Statement of Faith. Upon receiving the approval of the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education their name may be placed on the list of *Accredited Ordained Ministers*. If they have not met the Convention's educational requirements, the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education shall recommend a program of study consistent with the prevailing standards. (For application forms, please contact the Executive Minister's office.)

3.3 Within Other Church Bodies

Ordained ministers coming from church bodies not affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance shall submit an application to appear before the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education. The application shall include a statement of their conversion, their call to the ministry, and their Statement of Faith; and commitment to the aims, core values and activities of the Convention. A course in Baptist History and Polity with specific emphasis on Canadian and Atlantic Baptist History and Polity will be required if this has not been a part of their training. If they have not met the Convention's educational requirements, the Board shall recommend a program of study consistent with the prevailing standards. They shall be required to serve in their church(es) for at least one year prior to accreditation. During this one-year waiting period, they shall be listed as *Ordained Ministers Awaiting Accreditation*. When the above requirements have been met, they may be placed on the list of Accredited Ordained Ministers. Re-ordination is not recommended. (For application forms, please contact the Executive Minister's office.)

3.4 The Board of Ministerial Standards and Education shall not recognize the ordination of heterosexuals engaging in sexual activity outside of marriage (as defined in the resolution "Statement Affirming a Christian View of Marriage" adopted by Assembly in 1999) and practicing homosexuals (including lesbians).

3.5 Each minister accredited by the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches must be a member of a constituent church. Full-time pastors shall be a member of a church they serve.