

## **Appendix 6**

### **American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains (ABCRM)**

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## **Guidelines for Ordination Paper**

### **Purpose of the Paper**

The ordination paper is a major reflection on theological and ecclesiastical ideas and how they relate to your life and ministry. This paper is not intended to be an exclusively academic paper, though it definitely requires theological reflection. This paper is a tool that will enable the Ministerial Leadership Committee understand your theological process. It is also intended as a tool to help you integrate theology and doctrine in your life and ministry, including how these inform and shape your own spiritual formation and practices. It is not, however, a restatement of your personal faith history.

### **Introduction**

A brief description of the ways you relate to the identity and diversity of American Baptist Churches USA.

### **Christian Doctrine and Practice as They Relate to Your Life and Ministry**

The Person of God  
The Person of Jesus Christ  
The Person of the Holy Spirit  
Humanity and Sin  
Salvation—The Nature of the Gospel  
View of Scripture  
The Christian Hope—The Meanings of Death and Eternal Life  
Christian Eschatology

### **The Doctrine of the Church as It Relates to Your Life and Ministry**

Mission of the Church  
Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper  
Ecumenical Aspects of the Church  
Place of the Church in History  
Purpose and Place of the Church in Today's World  
The Role of the Minister  
The Ministry of the Laity  
Theology and Practice of Worship

**Relationships with the Wider Body of Christ**

Describe how you understand your relationship as a minister and the role of the local church in relationship to

ABC of the Rocky Mountains  
American Baptist Churches, USA  
Ecumenical Witness to Community and World

Please reflect on your understanding of the nature of the autonomy of the local church, loyalty to the denomination, and integrity in these relationships.

**Conclusion**

Theology of Family of Origin, Current Family and/or Significant Relationships

In conclusion, write a section on how the above reflections inform and shape a holistic theology of your greater family. We recognize that “traditional nuclear family” is often not the current norm. Please reflect on your theology out of your own context.