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

9085 E. Mineral Circle, Suite 170, Centennial, CO 80112

**Guidelines for Theological Paper**

**Purpose of the Paper**

The ordination paper is a major reflection on the 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 to 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.

You will not be able to include everything you think or believe about the topics below. This paper is intended to be a “Here I Stand” paper. What are your *essential thoughts* about each topic? How do you use Scripture to support your beliefs? This paper will typically be reviewed in one or two meetings with the MLC. Please anticipate a frank and honest discussion of your ideas, thoughts, and theology. In some cases, the MLC might ask you to return one or more times to discuss aspects of your paper that they believe need further clarification or thought.

**Style**

The paper should utilize 12-point Times New Roman font. It should be double spaced and between15 and 20 pages. References and footnotes should be used where appropriate. Paper should be submitted in electronic format such as a Word Document \*.doc(x) or Print Ready (\*.PDF). If the paper does not meet these guidelines, the candidate might be asked to rewrite the paper. Templates for the two papers are available on the ABCRM website.

**Content**

**Introduction**

A brief description of the ways you relate to the identity and diversity of American Baptist Churches USA. <http://www.abc-usa.org/10facts/>

**Christian Doctrine and Practices as They Relate to Your Life and Ministry**

The Person of God and Trinity

The Person of Jesus Christ

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Humanity, Sin and Redemption

View of Use of Scriptures in Theology

What’s Next—The Christian Hope and 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

The Role of the Minister and Laity

Theology and Practice of Worship

**Conclusion**

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