

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL PREPARATION  
The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts

**Preordination License  
Local Church License to Preach**

Use this form to notify TABCOM of new licenses and license renewals

**Please include the necessary fee when returning this form to initiate or renew a license (see "Fee for Services")**

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

*please include a photograph with this application*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Seminary \_\_\_\_\_

**CHURCH INFORMATION**

Church name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church email \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor email \_\_\_\_\_

Baptist Association in Massachusetts \_\_\_\_\_

**LICENSE INFORMATION**

*(for definitions of two types of licenses, see over)*

Type of License      Preordination (for those seeking ordination) \_\_\_\_\_

    New \_\_\_\_\_      Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Local church license to preach (for those NOT seeking ordination) \_\_\_\_\_

Date granted by church \_\_\_\_\_

by vote of (what church body) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed name \_\_\_\_\_ office/position \_\_\_\_\_

This form should be completed and returned with fee to TABCOM, 189 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 01450; Attn: Ministerial Preparation

Pre-Ordination License/License to Preach

10/1/2021

## License to Preach

licenses to preach are granted by the local church, but the Commission on the Ordained Ministry of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts sets the following standards for license to preach:

### I. LOCAL CHURCH LICENSE TO PREACH

- A. A person seeking to be granted a license to preach by a local church shall:
  - 1. Be a person who has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
  - 2. Be a person of good reputation in the community, emotionally stable, a proven leader in his/her church, and have the ability to communicate.
  - 3. Be an active member in good standing of a cooperating TABCOM church.
- B. A local church license to preach shall be valid only in the church granting the license.

### II. PRE-ORDINATION LICENSE

- A. A person planning to become an ordained minister shall first secure a pre-ordination license from the church of which he/she is a member.  
To obtain such a license, the candidate shall:
  - 1. Be a person who has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
  - 2. Be a stable person of good reputation
  - 3. Be preparing for the Christian ministry as a professional vocation.
- B. The candidate's church shall counsel with the candidate regarding the Christian ministry and shall provide an opportunity for the candidate to preach and/or conduct public worship. After favorable action by the church, a suitable pre-ordination license shall be presented to the candidate.
- C. The Commission on the Ministry of TABCOM shall be notified in order that:
  - 1. such licensing may be properly recorded in the Yearbook of the American Baptist Church of Massachusetts. The license shall be validated annually by the Church.
  - 2. such Candidate for the ministry shall be enrolled in the Watchcare Program of the Committee on Ministerial Preparation.

**Licenses should be renewed annually by forwarding the license renewal form and annual fee to:**

**TABCOM, 189 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 01450, attn. Min Prep.**

questions about this process can be sent to [minprep@tabcom.org](mailto:minprep@tabcom.org)