

**ORDINATION PAPER GUIDELINES  
OF THE  
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF OHIO**

**ORDER OF PAPER**

- Typed double spaced
- Each line must be numbered in the margin
- Topical sub-titles required; follow outline carefully to assist committee in study of paper
- Between 8 and 12 pages in length
- Include scripture references in parentheses

**NUMBER OF COPIES**

- 12 copies for the State Advisory Committee on Ordination
- 3 copies for each of the churches participating in the Ordination Council

The copies for the State Advisory Committee on Ordination must be sent to the Region Staff Person no later than three weeks before the scheduled meeting of the Committee. This is to provide sufficient time for the copies to be sent to the Committee members so that they can be reviewed before the meeting. The Region Staff Person will notify the candidates of this deadline date as soon as contact is made with the candidate. Copies for the Association Ordination Council should not be made until after the meeting with the State Advisory Committee, as that Committee may ask the candidate to make changes or additions to the original paper. Copies of the paper may be requested by the local Association Pastoral Relations Committee also. Contact should be made with the chair of that committee before the meeting to determine the number of copies required.

**CONTENT OF PAPER**

Part I – Personal

1. Christian Experience
2. Call to Ministry/Vocation
3. Academic and/or Field Preparation

Part II – Major Theological Concepts

1. Nature of God
2. Nature of Humanity
3. Soteriology
4. Christology
5. Holy Spirit
6. The Trinity
7. Eschatology
8. The Scriptures
9. The Church

Part III – Concepts of Ministry

1. The Call to Ministry
2. The Role of the Clergy
3. The Laity
4. Ordination

Part IV – American Baptist Polity and Practice

1. Baptist Distinctive
2. Understanding of the Ordinances as Practiced by Baptists
3. Choice of American Baptist Churches as the Context for Ministry
4. Relationship of the Local Church and Pastor to the Denomination
5. Relationship of the Local Church and Pastor to the Ecumenical Church