

Who is a Ministerial Leader in the ABC?

A Ministerial Leader is a person who serves in an American Baptist related ministry, is a member of an American Baptist Church and who has met standards of ordination and/or commissioning.

The following definition is from the Recommended Procedures for Ordination, Commissioning and Recognition for the Christian Ministry in ABC, 3/02, Page 18.

“Although examination for ordination may occur, the act of ordination will not take place until the candidate has a specific call to a position in one of the following fields of service:

- A. parish ministry, including all staff who exercise ministerial functions;
- B. mission service on the home or foreign field in which ministerial functions will be exercised;
- C. specialized ministries, (e.g., institutional, military, academic chaplaincy, seminary faculty, pastoral counseling, or staff membership in a church-related institution where preaching, teaching and/or pastoral work is required);
- D. staff service, involving educational or pastoral functions of an American Baptist agency, a council of churches, or some other ecumenical ministry appropriately related to the American Baptist Churches.

“Any candidate, whose proposed type of service does not fall into one of the above categories (e.g., a full-time evangelist) may consult with the Department of Ministry, or its equivalent, in his/her region.”

- AD Church Administration
- AP Associate or Assistant Pastor
- BV Bi-vocational minister (one who works in a secular occupation as well as giving leadership to a church organization)
- CE Minister or Director of Christian Education
- CL Certified Lay Minister
- CM Ministry with Children
- CW Community Witness
- DN Denominational Staff (professional level staff personnel related to national boards or institutions sponsored by national organizations)
- DR Denominational Staff (professional level staff personnel – related to regional organizations or institutions sponsored by regional organizations)
- EC Ecumenical Staff (professional level staff personnel of local, state, national, or international ecumenical ministries to which the ABC is appropriately related)
- ED Educator (related to a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools or to an ABC-related college or university as recognized by the Board of Educational Ministries)
- EV Minister of Evangelism
- GS Graduate Study (individual who has previously been included in the Professional Registry who is presently engaged in full-time graduate work, intending to utilize such preparations for some form of the church’s ministry)
- IA Institutional Administrator (staff of helping institutions related to the ABC)
- IC Institutional Chaplain (applies to those endorsed by the Committee on Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors)

IM	Interim Minister (applies to an individual certified by a regional organization for this particular work in ABC churches)
IN	Inactive (no more than five years)
L	Licensed for ordination (temporary status by applicable if the person is employed in a ministerial task and is not enrolled in a seminary)
LM	Licensed, not seeking ordination but functioning in a pastoral role
LO	Ordained by a local church, not equal to regional or national standards
MC	Military Chaplain (applies only to those in active military service, endorsed by the Committee on Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors)
ME	Commissioned Minister (ABHMS)
MI	Commissioned Missionary, Board of International Ministries of ABC
ML	Minister-at-Large
MM	Minister of Music
MN	Commissioned Missionary, Board of National Ministries of ABC
MR	Commissioned Minister, Regional Board
OA	Ordained according to association standards, not equal to regional or national standards
OR	Ordained according to regional standards, not equal to national standards
P	Pastor, Senior Pastor or Co-Pastor
PC	Pastoral counselor (applies to those endorsed by the Committee on Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors)
RT	Retired (by reason of age or health)
SC	Ministry with Senior Citizens
SE	Seminarian (individual currently seeking his/her first professional degree)
SM	Specialized Ministries (includes evangelists, fund-raisers, and others with significant validated service to ABC)
TA	Temporarily serving another denomination (ordained person who, while retaining his/her primary ministerial standing within the ABC, serves another denominational body; to be reviewed in seven years)
TO	Recognized ordination from another denomination temporarily serving in ABC ministry; to be reviewed in seven years
TU	Temporarily not in recognized ministry, but seeking placement
UC	University Chaplain or campus ministry
VI	Visitation
YM	Minister of Youth