



Upper Mississippi Region of NAB

Partnering for the sake of the world.

UMR Policy and Procedures for Licensing Ministers

Date: June 2016

Definition: Licensing is a recognition of one's call and preparation for ministry, decided upon by the local church and is recognized and affirmed by the Region and Conference.

Excerpted from NAB Credentialing Guide 2011

II. Types of Ministerial Credentials:

We affirm the call of both men and women to ministry. According to our understanding of Scripture, the role of the Senior Pastor/leading elder is limited to men (1 Corinthians 11:2-6, 1 Timothy 2:8-14).

A. Ordination - This credentialing designation is viewed as an act of the local church in recognition of the call of God upon a person's life, which is recognized by the association representing the entire conference. It is designed specifically for those involved in pastoral ministry as Pastor/Leading Elder, Associate Ministers, Vocational Directors of various ministries within the church, Chaplains, Counselors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Seminary Professors and Denominational Executives where applicable. It is conferred by the local church working in fraternal cooperation with the association of the conference.

B. Licensure - This credentialing designation is viewed as an act of the local church and association in recognition of the call of God upon a person's life. It is applied in those situations where the local church, in cooperation with the association, deems ordination as unneeded or inappropriate. In order to comply with IRS/Revenue Canada Standards, the ministerial license must be both conferred by the local church and affirmed by the appropriate board/committee within the association leadership structure.

Requirements:

Excerpted from NAB Credentialing Guide 2011.

III. Minimum Requirements for Credentialing (Ordination or Licensure):

- A. Must be a member in good standing of a local NAB congregation or a member of an evangelical church if transferring into the North American Baptist Conference.
- B. Must subscribe to the NAB Statement of Faith and NAB Code of Ministerial Ethics.
- C. Must be one who has heard and answered the divine call, first to personal salvation, and then to the call of the Gospel ministry and be actively engaged in ministry.
- D. Must have completed training, theological preparation and be able to demonstrate theological reflection appropriate for their ministerial role as determined by the local church in cooperation with the region's process.
- E. Must demonstrate a cooperative spirit and support for the purposes and policies of the NAB and demonstrate a lifestyle consistent with biblical standards of Christian conduct, such as honesty, integrity, moral purity, etc.
- F. Must be committed to ongoing personal growth and development.

Upper Mississippi Region Licensing Process:

1. The local body, through its leadership, recognizes and calls into ministry one who meets the requirements above.
2. The leadership of the church will communicate the vote of the leadership to license the individual and their request for the Regional Minister to recognize and affirm their call and qualifications.
 - a. The leadership will forward the minutes of their meeting to the Regional Minister indicating the Board's desire for recognition.
 - b. The individual will sign the Code of Ministerial Ethics (attached).
3. The Regional Minister will communicate the desire for licensure with the Regional Leadership Team.
4. After approval by the Regional Leadership Team, the Regional Minister will give a signed Licensure certificate to the church, for presentation.
5. The Regional Minister will keep a file with a copy of the signed Licensure certificate, a signed copy of the Code of Ministerial Ethics and a copy of the Board minutes.
6. The credential will be reported to the International Office of the NAB, and a letter of confirmation will be sent to the minister by the Conference.

NOTE: Licensing is specific to the church, or ministry context in which it was given. Unlike ordination, it does not follow the minister to a new place of ministry. A license would need to be obtained in the new locale.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

CODE OF MINISTERIAL ETHICS

- As a minister of Jesus Christ, called by God to proclaim the Gospel, and gifted by the Spirit, I dedicate myself to conduct my ministry in accord with the Statement of Beliefs of the North American Baptist Conference and the church to which I am called.
- I will constantly prepare myself in body, mind and spirit for the task to which God has called me.
- I will safeguard the good image of the Christian ministry by living honestly, not seeking special financial privileges or gratuities and avoiding embarrassing debts while giving faithfully to the work of the Lord.
- I will, if a full-time minister, confer with church leaders before accepting remuneration for work other than that normally associated with the pastorate.
- I will seek to build up the church without discrediting other churches or ministries.
- I will balance my family commitments and church duties properly.
- I will keep all appropriate confidences shared with me in counseling sessions and other ministry contexts except in cases where disclosure is required by law or necessary to prevent an individual from harming himself/herself or another.
- I will be truthful in my speech, never plagiarizing another's work or communicating gossip.
- I will keep my life morally pure by refusing to engage in any form of pornography or become romantically or sexually involved in any relationship, which is in violation of Biblical standards of morality.
- I will exercise the authority of a servant-leader who influences others through love and understanding and who humbly acknowledges dependence upon God, putting the interests of others above my own.
- I will, if I serve in an Associate Pastor role, support the leadership of the Senior Pastor and not undermine his ministry in public settings or private conversations with others.
- I will, if serving with a multiple staff, show respect for other ministers and staff members and shall encourage and work with them as members of a team.
- I will relate to other ministers with the respect that is due fellow servants of Jesus Christ and shall cooperate with them as God leads.
- I will seek the fellowship of the pastors of the North American Baptist Conference.
- I will encourage participation in the mission and ministry of the Conference and the Region and Association in which I serve.
- I will not intentionally cause division within the congregation I serve. If I resign or am asked to resign I will not seek to provide pastoral leadership for any new church that may develop in the same community unless approved by the Region or Association.
- Upon my resignation, I will sever my pastoral relations with the church and shall not make pastoral contacts of any kind with the members of the church(es) whom I formally served without the knowledge and consent of the pastor(s).
- I will obey the laws of my government as long as they do not conflict with the laws of God and will practice Christian citizenship without engaging in partisan or political activities that would discredit the integrity of the ministry.

I, _____, am in full and complete agreement with the North American Baptist Statement of Beliefs and Code of Ministerial Ethics and agree to them without reservation. I further covenant and pledge with my colleagues in the

North American Baptist Conference ministry to keep the Code of Ministerial Ethics. If at any time I should cease to agree with the Statement of Beliefs or the Code of Ministerial Ethics, I will resign my position as a minister with the North American Baptist Conference. I also acknowledge that, should I cease to agree with the Statement of Beliefs or act in such a manner as to violate the Code of Ministerial Ethics, that this will be grounds for the withdrawal of credentials as a minister within the North American Baptist Conference.

Signature _____

Date_____