

JOINT NOTICE OF MOTION - REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE MINISTRY

The following Joint Notice of Motion from the Council of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada and the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education is presented under the 180-day rule for discussion and action at Oasis 2021; that sections of the Regulations Concerning the Ministry, as printed in the 2021 CABAC Yearbook, be changed to read as follows:

CURRENT:

Preamble, Last Line

Once accepted as a Candidate for Ordained Pastoral Ministry or as a Candidate for Recognized Lay Leader, individuals will be held accountable to comply with the Ministerial Professional Standards adopted by the Convention.

1.1 The Role of the Local Church

The issuing of a Church License to Minister is an expression of confidence in a person's call to ordained ministry, and their suitability for ministry. It is important that the church exercise the utmost care and be thoroughly satisfied as to the qualities of mind, character and Christian experience which would fit the person for the important work of an ordained Christian minister. (See Section 2.1)

1.2 The Role of the Association

The granting of an Association License to Minister is an expression of confidence in a person's call to ordained ministry, academic progress, and suitability for ministry. It is important that the Association exercise the utmost care and be thoroughly satisfied as to the qualities of mind, character and Christian experience which would fit the person for the important work of an ordained Christian minister. (See Section 2.4)

PROPOSED:

Preamble, Last Line

Once accepted as a Candidate for Ordained Pastoral Ministry or as a Candidate for Recognized Lay Leader, individuals will be held accountable to comply with the Ministerial Professional Standards adopted by the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC).

Delete 1.1 and 1.2; replace with new 1.1

1.1 The Role of the Local Church, Association and the Licensing Committee

A. The issuing of a License to Minister is an expression of confidence in a person's call to ordained ministry, their academic progress and their suitability for ministry. It is important the local church and the Association's representatives on the Licensing Committee exercise the utmost care and be thoroughly satisfied as to the qualities of mind, character, and Christian experience which would qualify the person for the important work of an ordained Baptist Christian minister. (See Section 2.1)

B. The Licensing Committee is comprised of up to three (3) appointed members from the local CBAC church where the Ordination Candidate is a member, and at least three (3) and no more than five (5) representatives

CURRENT:

1.3 The Role of the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education (“the Board”)

A. The Board of Ministerial Standards and Education interviews prospective ministerial Candidates who are experiencing a call to ordained Christian ministry and who hold a Church License to Minister from a Baptist church in fellowship with Canadian Baptist Ministries or an Association License to Minister. The Initial Interview is usually near the conclusion of their first year of theological studies, and the Exit Interview is normally during the last year of theological studies.

PROPOSED:

from the Association’s Licensing Committee (where it exists), or Accredited Ordained ministers, Recognized Convention Lay Pastors and local church lay leaders, who are knowledgeable in Baptist polity, practices and beliefs; and are believers baptized by immersion* (except where precluded by medical condition) from other, preferably neighbouring, CBAC Churches.

1.2 The Role of the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education (“the Board”)

A. The Board of Ministerial Standards and Education interviews prospective Ordination Candidates who are sensing a call to ordained Christian ministry with the CBAC. Normally, these candidates will be a member of a CBAC church and hold a License to Minister from a Licensing Committee, or a License to Minister from a Baptist church or Association outside the CBAC but part of our Canadian Baptist family (Union d’Église Baptistes Francophones du Canada, Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, Canadian Baptists of Western Canada). The Initial Interview should be held before or near the conclusion of their first year of theological studies, and the Exit Interview should be held during their final year of theological studies.

In the absence of church membership or appropriate licensing, the individual may appear at the Initial Interview with the support by letter from a CBAC senior staff member and the affirmation of the BMSE Executive (as a result of a previous informal interview). Local church membership and appropriate licensing must be obtained before an Exit Interview will be granted.

CURRENT:

1.3 B. In the Initial Interview, the Board will determine if the individual is to be accepted as a Candidate for Ordained Pastoral Ministry based upon their fitness for the pastoral office including conversion, call to ministry, educational background, theology, overall suitability for ministry in this Convention, and alignment with the CBAC's Convention's core values. The Board determines the appropriate standard of academic training applicable to the Candidate; considers with them the financial obligations involved; and assists in any way that lies within the jurisdiction of the Board.

1.3 D. The Board:

1. may review the progress of the preparation of an applicant or a Candidate from time to time and report the same to the appropriate Association committee;
 2. will receive and process appeals regarding Board decisions from persons previously interviewed.
-

1.3 G. (Paragraph 1, Sentence 1)

G. If, for a period of three or more consecutive years, an Accredited Ordained Minister is no longer engaged in vocational ministry with a church, Association, or agency affiliated with Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada; or a recognized chaplaincy or interdenominational ministry; or actively pursuing further ministerial/theological studies, that individual's accreditation will no longer be held by the Convention.

PROPOSED:

1.2 B. In the Initial Interview, the Board will determine if the individual is to be accepted as a Candidate for Ordained Pastoral Ministry based upon their fitness for the pastoral office including conversion, call to ministry, educational background, theology, overall suitability for ministry in the CBAC, and alignment with the CBAC's core values. The Board determines the appropriate standard of academic training applicable to the Candidate; considers with them the financial obligations involved; and assists in any way that lies within the jurisdiction of the Board.

1.2 D. The Board:

1. may review the progress of the preparation of an applicant or a Candidate from time to time and report the same to the appropriate Licensing Committee;
 2. will receive and process appeals regarding Board decisions from persons previously interviewed.
-

1.2 G. (Paragraph 1, Sentence 1)

G. If, for a period of three or more consecutive years, an Accredited Ordained Minister is no longer engaged in vocational ministry with a church, Association, or agency affiliated with Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada; or a recognized chaplaincy or interdenominational ministry; or actively pursuing further ministerial/theological studies, that individual's accreditation will no longer be held by the CBAC.

CURRENT:

1.3 G. (Paragraph 3)

Previously accredited Ministers who wish to renew their accreditation may apply to the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education.

1.3 H.

The Board shall include nine elected members, together with the Executive Minister of the Convention and/or designate (with vote), the President of Acadia Divinity College or designate (with vote), and the President of Crandall University or designate (with vote). The Board may also include the Associate Executive Ministers who shall be members without vote.

1.4 A. 1.

The Examining Council shall convene at such a time and place as appropriate at the call of the President of the Convention with at least six months' notice being given to the churches. Ordination Candidates shall be scheduled for a specific time and to appear at stated intervals.

1.4 A. 2.

At the opening session of the Examining Council, a Chief Examiner shall be appointed from members of that Council.

PROPOSED:

1.2 G. (Paragraph 3)

Ministers who were previously accredited with the CBAC who wish to renew their accreditation may apply to the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education.

1.2 H.

The Board shall include nine elected members, together with the Executive Minister of the CBAC and/or designate (with vote), the President of Acadia Divinity College or designate (with vote), and the President of Crandall University or designate (with vote). The Board includes the Associate Executive Ministers who shall be members without vote.

1.3 A. 1.

The Examining Council shall convene at such a time and place as appropriate at the call of the President of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC), with at least six months' notice being given to the churches. Ordination Candidates shall be scheduled for a specific time and appear at stated intervals.

1.3 A. 2.

At the opening session of the Examining Council, the Chair and the Chief Examiner shall be elected from members of that Council based on a recommendation from the Executive Minister.

CURRENT:

1.4 A. 3.

It shall also be made clear at the opening session of the Examining Council to the members of that Council, that the Bible is authoritative, and the 1905/06 Basis of Union is the foundational statement of agreed doctrine and church polity for the Convention.

1.4 A. 5. (Paragraph 1)

A two-thirds majority of Examining Council members voting shall be required to recommend a person for ordination and accreditation. Persons with a conflict of interest shall so declare it and subsequently remove themselves from the process and sit as an/with the Observer(s). All votes shall be by secret ballot.

1.4 A. 7.

The names of those Ordination Candidates recommended by the Examining Council for ordination by their churches shall be reported to the Convention.

1.4 A. 8.

The vote of the Examining Council and its recommendation shall be reported both to the church requesting the examination and to the Candidate. A copy of the Candidate's written statement to the Examining Council shall also be forwarded to the church.

PROPOSED:

1.3. A. 3.

It shall also be made clear to the members of that Council at the opening session of the Examining Council, that the Bible is authoritative, and the 1905/06 Basis of Union is the foundational statement of agreed doctrine and church polity for the CBAC.

1.3 A. 5. (Paragraph 1)

A two-thirds majority of Examining Council members voting shall be required to recommend a person for ordination and accreditation. Persons with a conflict of interest shall so declare it and subsequently remove themselves from the process and will sit with the other Observers. All votes shall be by secret ballot.

1.3 A. 7.

The names of those Ordination Candidates recommended by the Examining Council for ordination by their churches shall be reported to the CBAC.

1.3 A. 8.

The vote of the Examining Council and its recommendation shall be reported both to the church requesting the examination and to the Candidate. A copy of the Candidate's written statement to the Examining Council shall also be forwarded to the church. The vote of the Examining Council is final and not subject to appeal.

CURRENT:

1.4 A. 9.

The Examining Council at its Annual Meeting shall elect members to an Appeal Board. (See section 7.1 of the Ministerial Standards Document).

1.4 B. 1.

The Examining Council shall consist of the representatives of each Association on the following basis: one representative for each Association and a further representative for each Association having a total resident membership of 3,000 or more, except for Prince Edward Island, which has 2 representatives, the same privilege will be granted to Newfoundland and Labrador when the church membership reaches 2,000. Where there are two members from an Association, preferably one shall be male and one female. Each elected representative shall be elected for a period of three (3) years and shall not be eligible for re-election at the close of that period. A retiring member shall be eligible for re-election after a lapse of one (1) year. Associations are to name official alternates to act in the event of the unavoidable absence of the appointee.

1.4 B. 2.

No ordained minister shall be eligible for appointment to the Examining Council until at least three years after their own ordination, nor shall any licensed person proceeding to the ordained ministry be eligible to serve.

PROPOSED:

1.3 A. 9.

BMSE candidates may wish to appeal decisions made by the BMSE. Therefore, the Examining Council shall elect members to a BMSE Appeal Board at its Annual Meeting (See section 7.1 of the Ministerial Standards Document).

1.3 B. 1.

The Examining Council will consist of the representatives of each Association on the following basis: one representative for each Association and a further representative for each Association having a total resident membership of 3,000 or more, except for Prince Edward Island, which has two (2) representatives. The same privilege will be granted to Newfoundland and Labrador when the church membership reaches 2,000. Where there are two members from an Association, preferably one shall be male and one female. Each elected representative shall be elected for a period of three (3) years and shall not be eligible for re-election at the close of that period. A retiring member shall be eligible for re-election after a lapse of one (1) year. Associations are to name official alternates to act in the event of the unavoidable absence of the appointee.

1.3 B. 2.

Those Eligible to Serve on the Examining Council include:

- Ordained Ministers accredited by the CBAC who have been ordained for a minimum of three years;
- Convention Lay Pastors who have been recognized by the CBAC for a minimum of three years; and,

CURRENT:

1.4 B. 3.

Lay person shall be eligible for appointment to the Examining Council until they have served for at least three (3) years in a leadership position in a local church and/or Association.

1.4 B. 5.

Normally the Past President and the Administrative Assistant for the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education of the CBAC shall be respectively Chair and the Secretary of the Examining Council. In case of either not being able to act, the Examining Council shall appoint a replacement.

2.1. Church License to Minister for Persons Preparing for Ordained Ministry

- A. The first step on the part of persons desiring to enter the ordained ministry of the Church is to secure from that church of which they are a member a Church License to Minister.

PROPOSED:

- Lay persons who are spiritually mature, who are members of CBAC churches and are believers baptized by immersion* (except where precluded by medical condition) once they have served for at least three (3) years in a leadership position in a CBAC member church and/or Association. These individuals should have a knowledge of Baptist polity, practice, and beliefs.

1.3 B. 3.

Those Ineligible to Serve on the Examining Council include:

- Clergy not accredited by the CBAC; and
- Individuals currently in process toward Ordination with the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education.

1.3 B. 5.

Normally the Administrative Assistant for the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education of the CBAC shall be the Secretary of the Examining Council. In case of not being able to act, the Examining Council shall appoint a replacement.

2.1. License to Minister for Persons Preparing for Ordained Ministry

- A. The first step on the part of persons desiring to enter the ordained ministry of the church is to secure a License to Minister from a Licensing Committee.

CURRENT:

- B. The Church License to Minister is in effect both an affirmation and a recommendation. It is required that a person being considered:
1. tell of their conversion, their call to ministry, their faith and life in Jesus Christ and their view of Christian doctrine with reference to the Bible and their understanding and substantial agreement with the 1905/06 Basis of Union, the foundational statement of agreed doctrine and church polity for the CABC;
 2. give evidence of biblical knowledge and spiritual growth;
 3. have preached, taught and/or given leadership in the ministries of the church to determine their gifts for ministry;
 4. demonstrate an ethical lifestyle appropriate to a pastoral leader, including family relationships;
 5. give an account of their ministries in the church, how they have related to people, and how they have honoured their commitments; and
 6. articulate their understanding of pastoral ministry and basic Baptist beliefs.

PROPOSED:

- B. A License to Minister should not be granted until the person has been a member of a CBAC church for at least one year. The candidate must be a member baptized by immersion* (except where precluded by a medical condition).
- C. The License to Minister is in effect both an affirmation and a recommendation. It is required that a person being considered:
1. tell of their conversion, their call to ministry, their faith and life in Jesus Christ, their view of Christian doctrine with reference to the Bible, and their understanding of and substantial agreement with the 1905/06 Basis of Union, the foundational statement of agreed doctrine and church polity for the CBAC;
 2. give evidence of biblical knowledge and spiritual growth;
 3. has preached, taught and/or given leadership in the ministries of the church to determine their gifts for ministry;
 4. demonstrate an ethical lifestyle appropriate to a pastoral leader, including family relationships;
 5. give an account of their ministries in the church, how they have related to people, and how they have honoured their commitments; and
 6. articulate their understanding of pastoral ministry and basic Baptist beliefs.

CURRENT:

- C. A Church License to Minister should not be granted until the person has been a member of that church for at least one year.

A Church License to Minister must be renewed yearly. It remains valid as long as the church which grants it considers it valid, but may be rescinded by the church for just cause. It is the responsibility of the recipient to request a yearly endorsement by the church until such time as an Association License to Minister is granted.

2.4 Association License to Minister for Persons Preparing for Ordained Ministry

- A. A person who is commended by a church to prepare for ordained ministry and has held a Church License to Minister for at least one year may apply to obtain an Association License to Minister.
- B. The Association License to Minister is in effect both an affirmation and a recommendation. It is required that a person being considered:
 - 1. tell of their conversion, their baptism by immersion* (except where precluded by medical condition), their call to ministry, their faith and life in Jesus Christ and their view of Christian doctrine with reference to the Bible and their understanding and substantial agreement with the 1905/06 Basis of Union, the foundational statement of agreed doctrine and church polity for the CABC;

PROPOSED:

- D. The Licensing Committee is to interview the Ordination Candidate assessing the Candidate's gifts and calling as they answer questions related to the items outlined above. The Licensing Committee will further be responsible to ask the Candidate questions related to:
 - 1. the Candidate's fit within our broader CBAC family;
 - 2. exploring a theological and pastoral response to current trends and cultural issues;
 - 3. the ability to engage with other denominations, other Baptists in their community or others who may share differing theological views; and,
 - 4. the ability of male and female pastors to cooperate with one another in ministry.
- E. The Licensing Committee shall examine the applicant personally on all of the above, as well as their commitment to the aims, core values and activities of the Association and the CBAC.
- F. A License to Minister must be renewed every two years. It remains valid as long as the Licensing Committee which grants it considers it valid, but may be rescinded by the Licensing Committee for just cause. It is the responsibility of the Ordination Candidate to request the biennial endorsement by the Licensing Committee until such time as the candidate is ordained.

CURRENT:

2. give evidence of biblical knowledge and spiritual growth;
 3. have preached, taught and/or given leadership in the ministries of the church to determine their gifts for ministry;
 4. demonstrate an ethical lifestyle appropriate to a pastoral leader, including family relationships; give an account of their ministries in the church, how Church License to Minister or to the Association where the applicant is residing at the time of application. Failure to renew the Association they have related to people, and how they have honoured their commitments; and
 5. articulate their understanding of pastoral ministry and basic Baptist beliefs.
- C. An Association License to Minister may be granted when:
1. one year has elapsed since the applicant was granted an un-rescinded Church License to Minister;
 2. the applicant is a member of a church in fellowship with Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada;
 3. the applicant has given evidence of satisfactory ministry; and
 6. the applicant is making progress toward the completion of the academic

PROPOSED:

A License to Minister may be renewed as long as:

1. the applicant's license was not rescinded;
2. the applicant continues to be a member of and involved in a CBAC church;
3. the applicant has given evidence of satisfactory ministry; and
4. the applicant is making progress toward the completion of the academic and other requirements for ordination.

At the renewal interview, the Licensing Committee should ask the Ordination Candidate additional questions regarding progress towards educational requirements, as well as any changes to their theology, philosophy of ministry, etc., since their last meeting with the Licensing Committee.

- G. The local church and where possible, the Association should ratify the decision of the Licensing Committee by vote.
- H. Each License to Minister that is granted or renewed by the Licensing Committee shall be countersigned by an Association representative where possible as well as a local church representative on the Licensing Committee.
- I. In the event the ordination candidate moves to another Association, they may request a transfer of license from the original Licensing Committee to the church where they are ministering.

CURRENT:

requirements required for ordination.

- D. A Committee appointed by the Association shall examine the applicant personally on all the above and concerning their commitment to the aims, core values and activities of the Association and the Convention.
- E. Application for renewal of an Association License to Minister is to be made annually until the applicant has been ordained. Application for either the granting or the renewal of an Association License to Minister may be made to the Association in which the applicant received a Church License to Minister or to the Association where the applicant is residing at the time of application. Failure to renew the Association License to Minister will require that a person secure a letter of commendation from the Deacons of the church of which one is a member. Before being interviewed for the purpose of having the Association License to Minister reinstated, this letter must be presented to the Association Licensing Committee.
- F. Each person seeking renewal of an Association License to Minister must apply to appear in person before the Association Committee and shall furnish satisfactory evidence of progress in studies, plans to continue them, active participation in the life of a church and continued commitment to the aims, core values and activities of the Association and the Convention.

PROPOSED:

CURRENT:

- G. Each Association License to Minister granted or renewed by an Association shall be signed by its Moderator and Clerk.
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2.2 C. 1. i. (Paragraph 2; Sentence 1)

The Board of Ministerial Standards and Education may deem a Bachelor of Theology or Bachelor of Religious Education degree from a Bible College in good standing with the Association for Biblical Higher Education that is comparable to the Acadia Bachelor of Theology degree an appropriate qualification for ordination. Candidates may also be required to complete up to 30 semester hours of theological studies (normally taken at Acadia Divinity College), or up to 30 semester hours in Arts and Sciences (normally taken at Crandall University).

2.3 A.

- A. A ministerial student proceeding toward ordination shall apply to appear before the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education for an Initial Interview normally near the conclusion of the first year of their theological education to be considered for acceptance as a Candidate for Ordained Pastoral Ministry. (For application forms, please contact the Executive Minister's office.)
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PROPOSED:

2.2 C. 1. i. (Paragraph 2; Sentence 1)

The Board of Ministerial Standards and Education may deem a Bachelor of Theology or Bachelor of Religious Education degree from a college or university in good standing with the Association for Biblical Higher Education that is comparable to the Acadia Bachelor of Theology degree an appropriate qualification for ordination. Candidates may also be required to complete up to 30 semester hours of theological studies (normally taken at Acadia Divinity College), or up to 30 semester hours in Arts and Sciences (normally taken at Crandall University).

2.3 A.

- A. A ministerial student proceeding toward ordination shall normally apply to appear before the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education for an Initial Interview near the conclusion of the first year of their theological education or earlier to be considered for acceptance as a Candidate for Ordained Pastoral Ministry. (For application forms, please contact the Executive Minister's office.)
-

CURRENT:

2.3 B

- B. In order to appear before the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education, normally the applicant shall have a current License to Minister Baptist Church in fellowship with Canadian Baptist Ministries or a current Association License to Minister.

2.3 C

Prior to appearing for the exit interview with the BMSE, a Candidate shall be required to attend a Convention ordination/call to ministry orientation event.

2.5 Recommendation to Internship

2.6 Application to Appear Before the Examining Council for Ordination to the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (i.e., the “Examining Council”)

2.7 The Ordination Service

PROPOSED:

2.3 B

In order to appear before the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education, the applicant normally shall have a current ~~Church~~ License to Minister from a Licensing Committee or a License to Minister from a Baptist church or Association outside the CBAC but part of our Canadian Baptist family (Union d’Église Baptistes Francophones du Canada, Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, Canadian Baptists of Western Canada) (see 1.2 A for an exception to this).

2.3 C

Prior to appearing for the exit interview with the BMSE, a Candidate shall be required to attend a ~~CBAC~~ ordination/call to ministry orientation event.

2.4 Recommendation to Internship

2.5 Application to Appear Before the Examining Council for Ordination to the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (i.e., the “Examining Council”)

2.6 The Ordination Service

CURRENT:

4.1 The Role of the Local Church

The issuing of a Church License to Minister is an expression of confidence in a person's call to and suitability for lay leadership. It is important that the church exercise the utmost care and be thoroughly satisfied as to the qualities of mind, character and Christian experience which would fit a person for the important work of a Recognized Lay Leader (see Section 5.1).

4.2 The Role of the Association

The granting of an Association Lay License to Minister is an expression of confidence in a person's call to lay leadership, their academic progress, and their suitability for ministry. It is important that the Association exercise the utmost care and be thoroughly satisfied as to the qualities of mind, character and Christian experience which would fit the person for the important work of a Recognized Lay Leader (see Section 5.4).

PROPOSED:

Delete 4.1 & 4.2. Replace with new 4.1

4.1 The Role of the Local Church, Association and the Licensing Committee

- A. The issuing of a License for Lay Ministry is an expression of confidence in a person's call to lay leadership, their academic progress, and their suitability for lay ministry. It is important that the local church and the Association's representatives on the Licensing Committee exercise the utmost care and be thoroughly satisfied as to the qualities of mind, character, and Christian experience which would qualify the person for the important work of a Recognized Lay Leader. (See Section 5.1)
- B. The Licensing Committee is comprised of up to three (3) appointed representatives from the local CBAC church where the Candidate is a member and at least three and no more than five representatives from the Association's Licensing Committee (where it exists) or Accredited Ordained ministers, Recognized Convention Lay Pastors and lay leaders (who are knowledgeable in Baptist polity, practices and beliefs; and are believers baptized by immersion* (except where precluded by medical condition)

CURRENT:

4.3 The Role of the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education (“the Board”)

- A. The Board of Ministerial Standards and Education interviews only those prospective Candidates who are sensing a call to become a Recognized Lay Leader and who are intending to have their name listed on the Recognized Lay Leadership Registry upon completion of the Certificate in Lay Leadership. Prospective Candidates must hold a Church License to Minister from a Baptist Church in fellowship with the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada or an Association Lay License to Minister prior to meeting with the Board. The Initial Interview is usually held prior to the commencement of studies, and the Recognition Interview usually takes place once the Candidate has graduated from the Certificate in Lay Leadership.

4.3

- B. In the Initial Interview, the Board will determine if the individual is to be accepted as a Candidate for Lay Leadership based upon their fitness for lay leadership including conversion, baptism by immersion* (except where precluded by medical condition), call to lay leadership, life and ministry experience, theology, overall suitability for lay leadership in The Convention, and alignment with

PROPOSED:

from other, preferably neighbouring CBAC churches.

4.2 The Role of the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education (“the Board”)

- A. The Board of Ministerial Standards and Education interviews only those prospective Candidates who are sensing a call to become a Recognized Lay Leader and who are intending to have their name listed on the Recognized Lay Leadership Registry upon completion of the Certificate in Lay Leadership. Prospective Candidates must hold a License for Lay Ministry from a Licensing Committee within the CBAC prior to meeting with the Board. The Initial Interview is usually held prior to the commencement of studies, and the Recognition Interview usually takes place once the Candidate has graduated from the Certificate in Lay Leadership.

4.2

- B. In the Initial Interview, the Board will determine if the individual is to be accepted as a Candidate for Lay Leadership based upon their fitness for lay leadership including conversion, baptism by immersion* (except where precluded by medical condition), call to lay leadership, life and ministry experience, theology, overall suitability for lay leadership in the CBAC, and alignment with the CBAC’s core values (see Section 5.3).

CURRENT:

the Convention’s core values (see Section 5.3).

4.3 C

(see Section 5.5)

4.3 E

(see Section 5.5 G)

**5.1 Church License to Minister for Persons
Preparing for Lay Leadership**

- A. The first step on the part of persons desiring to be considered as a Recognized Lay Leader is to secure a Church License to Minister from the church where they are a member.
- B. The Church License to Minister is in effect both an affirmation and a recommendation. It is required that a person being considered:
 - 1. tell of their conversion, their call to lay ministry, their faith and life in Jesus Christ and their view of Christian doctrine with reference to the Bible and their understanding and substantial agreement with the 1905/06 Basis of Union, the foundational statement of agreed doctrine and church polity for the CABC;
 - 2. Give evidence of biblical knowledge and spiritual growth;
 - 3. Have preached, taught and/or given leadership in the ministries of the church to determine their gifts for

PROPOSED:

4.2 C

(see Section 5.4)

4.2 E

(see Section 5.4 G)

Delete 5.1 and 5.4; replace with new 5.1

**5.1 License for Lay Ministry for Persons
Preparing for Lay Leadership**

- A. The first step on the part of persons desiring to be considered as a Recognized Lay Leader is to secure a License for Lay Ministry from a Licensing Committee.
- B. A License for Lay Ministry should not be granted until the person has been a member of a CBAC church for at least one year.
- C. The License for Lay Ministry is in effect both an affirmation and a recommendation. It is required that a person being considered:
 - 1. tell of their conversion, their call to lay ministry, their faith and life in Jesus Christ, their view of Christian doctrine with reference to the Bible, and their understanding and substantial agreement with the 1905/06 Basis of Union, the foundational statement of agreed

CURRENT:

- ministry;
 - 4. Demonstrate an ethical lifestyle appropriate to a lay leader, including family relationships;
 - 5. Give an account of their ministries in the church, how they have related to people, and how they have honoured their commitments; and
 - 6. Articulate their understanding of lay leadership and basic Baptist beliefs.
- C. A Church License to Minister should not be granted until the person has been a member of the church for at least one year.
- D. A Church License to Minister must be renewed annually. It remains valid as long as the church that grants it considers it valid, but may be rescinded by the church for just cause. It is the responsibility of the recipient to request an annual endorsement by the church until such time as an Association Lay License to Minister is granted.

5.4 Association Lay License to Minister

- A. A person who as a first step has held a Church License to Minister for at least one year and is sensing a call to prepare for lay leadership, whose intention is not set toward ordination, and who has some lay leadership experience, may apply to obtain an Association Lay License to Minister.
- B. The Association Lay License to Minister is in effect both an affirmation and a recommendation.

PROPOSED:

- doctrine and church polity for the CBAC;
 - 2. give evidence of biblical knowledge and spiritual growth;
 - 3. have given leadership in the ministries of the church to determine their gifts for ministry;
 - 4. demonstrate an ethical lifestyle appropriate to a lay leader, including family relationships;
 - 5. give an account of their ministries in the church, how they have related to people, and how they have honoured their commitments; and
 - 6. articulate their understanding of lay leadership and basic Baptist beliefs.
- D. The Licensing Committee will examine all applicants for a License for Lay Ministry according to the standards and requirements above, as well as their commitment to the aims, core values and activities of the Association and the CBAC.
- E. A License for Lay Ministry may be granted on the following conditions:
- 1. the applicant is a member baptized by immersion* (except where precluded by a medical condition) of a church in fellowship with Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada;
 - 2. the applicant has given evidence of satisfactory lay leadership; and

CURRENT:

It is required that a person being considered:

1. tell of their conversion, their baptism by immersion* (except where precluded by medical condition), their call to lay leadership, their faith and life in Jesus Christ and their view of Christian doctrine with reference to the Bible and their understanding and substantial agreement with the 1905/06 Basis of Union, the foundational statement of agreed doctrine and church polity for the CABC;
 2. Give evidence of biblical knowledge and spiritual growth;
 3. Have given leadership in the ministries of the church to determine their gifts for ministry;
 4. Demonstrate an ethical lifestyle appropriate to a lay leader, including family relationships;
 5. Give an account of their ministries in the church, how they have related to people, and how they have honoured their commitments; and
 6. Articulate their understanding of lay leadership and basic Baptist beliefs.
- C. Such a License may be granted on the following conditions:
1. One year has passed since the applicant was granted an un-rescinded Church License to Minister;

PROPOSED:

3. has given satisfactory answers to the questions from the Licensing Committee.

F. A License for Lay Ministry must be renewed bi-annually until the applicant has been approved and registered as a Recognized Lay Leader. It remains valid as long as the Licensing Committee that grants it considers it valid, but may be rescinded by the Licensing Committee for just cause. Failure to renew the License for Lay Ministry will require that the person secure a letter of commendation from the deacons/elders/leadership team of the church where they are a member. This letter must be presented to the Licensing Committee before an interview for reinstatement is granted.

A License for Lay Ministry may be renewed as long as:

1. the applicant's license was not rescinded;
2. the applicant continues to be a member of a CBAC church;
3. the applicant has given evidence of satisfactory lay ministry; and
4. the applicant is making progress toward the completion of the academic requirements required for Recognized Lay Leader.

At the renewal interview, the Licensing Committee should ask the Candidate additional questions regarding progress towards educational requirements as well as any

CURRENT:

2. The applicant is a member of a church in fellowship with Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada; and
 3. The applicant has given evidence of satisfactory lay leadership.
- D. The Licensing Committee of an Association will examine all applicants for an Association Lay License to Minister according to the standards and requirements contained in the above paragraphs and their commitment to the aims, core values and activities of the Association and the Convention.
- E. Application for renewal of an Association Lay License to Minister is to be made annually until the applicant has been approved and registered as a Recognized Lay Leader. Failure to renew the Association Lay License to Minister will require that the person secure a letter of commendation from the Deacons of the church of which they are a member. Before being interviewed for the purpose of having the Association Lay License to Minister reinstated, this letter must be presented to the appropriate Association committee.
- F. Upon renewal by an Association, the Association Lay License to Minister is to be signed again by the Moderator and Clerk of the Association.
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PROPOSED:

- changes to their theology, philosophy of ministry, etc. since their last meeting with the Licensing Committee.
- G. Each License for Lay Ministry that is granted or renewed by the Licensing Committee shall be countersigned by an Association representative as well as a local church representative on the Licensing Committee.
- H. In the event that the candidate moves to another Association, they may request a transfer of license from the original Licensing Committee to the church where they are ministering.
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CURRENT:

5.3 Acceptance as a Candidate for Recognized Lay Leadership

- B. In order to appear before the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education for an Initial Interview, the applicant shall have a current Church License to Minister Baptist church in fellowship with Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada or a current Association Lay License to Minister.

5.5 Becoming a Recognized Lay Leader

- A. A person within the Convention who has been accepted by the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education as a Candidate for Lay Leadership may seek approval by the Convention through the Board as a Recognized Lay Leader.
- B. In order to appear before the Board for a Recognition Interview, the Candidate shall have a current Association Lay License to Minister.

5.5

- F. The names of those whom the Board approves shall appear on the Convention's registry of Recognized Lay Leaders.
- G. Recognized Lay Leaders will be registered for a period of five years. After five years, listing on the registry will lapse unless the Recognized Lay Leader contacts the Convention office requesting extension, which will be granted based on continued leadership in a Convention church.

END

PROPOSED:

5.3 Acceptance as a Candidate for Recognized Lay Leadership

- A. In order to appear before the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education for an Initial Interview, the applicant shall have a current License for Lay Ministry from a Licensing Committee within the CBAC.

5.4 Becoming a Recognized Lay Leader

- A. A person within the CBAC who has been accepted by the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education as a Candidate for Lay Leadership may seek approval by the CBAC through the Board as a Recognized Lay Leader.
- B. In order to appear before the Board for a Recognition Interview, the Candidate shall have a current License for Lay Ministry.

5.4

- F. The names of those whom the Board approves shall appear on the CBAC's registry of Recognized Lay Leaders.
- G. Recognized Lay Leaders will be registered for a period of five years. After five years, listing on the registry will lapse unless the Recognized Lay Leader contacts the CBAC office requesting extension, which will be granted based on continued leadership in a CBAC church.

END