

## **Licensed Pastor – BC Association**

The purpose of this category is to afford the recognition that a specified non-ordained individual has been called to serve as a pastor in a specific local congregation and is recommended to the Association for benefits, privileges and responsibilities appropriate to their office.

1. The local congregation may request that a non-ordained pastor in their church be licensed by the BC Association Credentials Committee (BCACC). The licensing will be granted on the recognition that the individual is functioning as a pastor of a congregation.
2. The candidate will be recommended to the BCACC through a motion passed at a business meeting by his/her church.
3. The candidate will provide the BCACC with a copy of their resume, their statement of faith and their philosophy of ministry. This will be a minimum of 3 – 10 pages in length.
4. The candidate will provide the BCACC with a copy of the signed NABC Pastoral Code of Ethics.
5. The BCACC will arrange for an interview with the candidate. Local pastors or church leaders may be called on by the BCACC to assist with the interview.
6. The BCACC will inform the church of its decision to accept their recommendation for License or arrange a time to discuss their reservations with the governing authority of the church.
7. Areas of concern regarding a pastor's licensing will be directed to the BCACC who will have authority to administer direction and discipline if required.
8. The BC Association will keep an accurate record of pastors whose licenses are held by the BCACC.
9. When a Licensed Pastor leaves the church in which he/she is licensed, the credential is automatically withdrawn.
10. The BCACC reserved the right to 'grandfather' pastors without an interview if the church recommends them for Licensing and they have been at their present position for more than five years.

**NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE  
PASTORAL CODE OF ETHICS**

Striving to be a good minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, I shall, with the help of God...

**ACCEPT THE PASTORATE OF A NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE CHURCH ONLY AS I FIND MYSELF BY INNER CONVICTION IN ACCORD WITH THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS, VALUES, GOALS AND MINISTRIES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE.**

- Constantly prepare myself in body, mind and spirit for the task to which God has called me under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Safeguard the good image of the Christian ministry, speak the truth in love, live honestly and avoid embarrassing debts.
- Hold as sacred all confidences shared with me.
- Exercise the authority of a spiritual leader who influences others through love and understanding and who humbly acknowledges his dependence upon God.
- Seek the unity and best interest of the church, placing service above personal ambition. Seek to lead the church to accept its full responsibility in mission outreach and community service. Seek to build the church without discrediting other churches or ministers.
- Seek the fellowship of the pastors of the North American Baptist Conference and be of encouragement and blessing to them.
- Encourage participation in the mission and ministry of the Conference. If I cannot continue that support, I will not use my influence to alienate the congregation or any portion thereof from Conference loyalty and support, but rather resign and seek another ministry.
- Carry on correspondence or negotiations to candidate with another church about a possible call with sincere effort to know the will of God and will not knowingly compete with another minister for a call to a pastorate.
- Upon my resignation, sever my pastoral relations with the church which I formerly served and will not make pastoral contacts of any kind with these members without the knowledge and consent of the pastor.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am in agreement with The North American Baptist Statement of Faith and covenant with my colleagues in the ministry to strive to keep the Pastoral Code of Ethics of the North American Baptist Conference.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_