

American Baptist Resolution on Ministerial Development

Providing resources for the development of ministerial leaders is vital to the fulfillment of healthy congregations and healthy ministries. Well-resourced pastors are able to promote spiritual growth among their members, lead their congregations in vibrant community ministries, and engage in ministries that extend beyond the reach of any single congregation, connecting their congregations through worship, witness, and work. The ministries of OGS, NM, IM, and MMBB are dependent upon the life and vision of healthy congregations, which in turn depend upon the leadership of trained ministerial leaders.

Therefore, we urge all denominational agencies to make ministerial leadership a priority among American Baptists by:

- Offering training opportunities for ministerial leaders.
- Advocating for reasonable compensation, benefits, and continuing education funds for ministerial leaders.
- Maintaining high expectations for the academic, pastoral, human, and spiritual preparation and development of ministerial leaders.
- Viewing ministerial development as a lifelong, continuous process.
- Identifying best practices among ministerial leaders while recognizing that all applications of such common insights must be customized according to the unique contexts of ministerial leaders.
- Holding one another accountable for the delivery and use of ministerial leadership training through the initiation and employment of assessment tools and accountability methods.
- Promoting best practices among local church committees that recruit, retain, and support ministerial leaders.
- Devoting personnel, time and resources for participation in ongoing discussions focused around the needs of ministerial leaders.

Policy Bases:

1. Educational Mission of the church – adopted November of 1995
2. Ordained Ministry – adopted December of 1989
3. Primacy of the local church – adopted December of 1974