

The Professional Ministries Team met virtually on October 12, 2021 with 9 members present, welcoming new member Feisal Al-Amry (the new ABCIS coordinator).

The team share personal and professional updates regarding projects related to supporting clergy.

The team continued its review of the “Professional Registry” document, now called the “ABC Leadership Registry.” This document contains guidelines for entry into the registry, coding regarding ordination status, definitions, and information regarding how to work with the database. The registry itself, housed in the American Baptist Churches Information System (ABCIS), functions as the repository of the many individuals who currently serve and/or have served in some leadership capacity in an American Baptist-related ministry. This includes both ordained and commissioned persons as well as lay ministers. In its entirety, the registry intends to be a comprehensive list of these individuals, particularly clergy, thereby preserving the credentials and job history of ABC leadership. The registry also serves as the credentials granting procedure for clergy. The document now contains two sections, namely the “Ordained and Commissioned Registry” and the “Lay Ministry Registry.” The goal is to present the completed document to the Executive Ministers at the beginning of 2022.

The registry also contains information regarding clergy misconduct. In their work with search committees, regional and national staff can see if a clergy profile has been “flagged” within the database indicating that it is not available for circulation. Procedures for notification of such decisions were also clarified at the meeting.

The meeting also included a presentation and discussion of resources and strategies for supporting women in ministry, led by Pat Hernandez.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Chair