**SELF-DISCLOSURE AND RELEASE FORM**

***TRANSITION MINISTRIES ABCUSA***

Preamble

The *Transition Ministries ABCUSA* Programs of the American Baptist Churches USA have an outstanding record for maintaining the highest moral and ethical standards in the practice of interim ministry. This record of service reflects our commitment to “preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline, and promote the integrity of the vocation to which we have been called” (Ministers Council Code of Ethics). When any clergy person engages in misconduct, the church is brought into disrepute and all persons involved suffer. In addition, there can be legal repercussions from such acts of misconduct. Therefore, *Transition Ministries ABCUSA* is committed to taking any reasonable precaution to avoid such disrepute, suffering, and litigation. This Self-disclosure and Release Form is a part of the program’s effort to minimize the occurrence of misconduct among clergy who are assigned as interim pastors. Your understanding and cooperation is deeply appreciated. Mark statements true unless there is an ethical departure in your history.

1. I have never been the subject of official disciplinary proceedings in the American Baptist Churches USA that resulted in any of the following:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Censure |  |  | true |  |  | not true |
| b. | Suspension of recognition of ordination |  |  | true |  |  | not true |
| c. | Withdrawal of recognition of ordination |  |  | true |  |  | not true |

2. No official disciplinary proceedings by a region, association, or church of the American Baptist Churches USA are pending against me at the present time.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | true |  |  | not true |

3. I have never been the subject of official disciplinary proceedings by another denomination that resulted in disciplinary action.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | true |  |  | not true |

4. No official disciplinary proceedings by another denomination are pending against me at the present time.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | true |  |  | not true |

5. I have never been the subject of official disciplinary proceedings by a professional association or guild that resulted in disciplinary action.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | true |  |  | not true |

6. No official disciplinary proceedings by a professional association or guild are pending against me at the present time.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | true |  |  | not true |

7. No civil lawsuit alleging actual or attempted sexual harassment, exploitation, or abuse; discrimination; physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct has ever been successfully prosecuted against me, settled out of court, or dropped because the statute of limitations had expired.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | true |  |  | not true |

8. My driver’s license has never been suspended or revoked due to reckless driving, driving while intoxicated, or driving under the influence of controlled substances.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | true |  |  | not true |

9. I have never been found guilty or pleaded guilty or no contest to felony criminal charges or had felony criminal charges dropped because the statute of limitations had expired.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_true \_\_\_\_\_\_not true

10. My employment has never been terminated for actual or attempted sexual harassment, exploitation, or abuse; discrimination; physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct by me, nor have I terminated my employment primarily to avoid facing such charges or to avoid being terminated because of such charges.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_true \_\_\_\_\_\_not true

11. I know of no facts or circumstances regarding my background that would warrant further review of my fitness for ministry before my being entrusted with the responsibilities of ministry on behalf of a calling body of the American Baptist Churches USA.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_true \_\_\_\_\_\_not true

Provide a short explanation for each complaint, proceeding, or action that caused you to answer “not true.” Give enough information for follow-up, including the date, nature, and place of each incident leading to a complaint, proceeding, or action; where and when each was adjudicated; and the disposition of the complaint(s). Indicate steps taken toward rehabilitation, if any. Use additional pages as needed.

12. In addition to the names used on this form, as an adult, I have been known by the following alias(es) during the time(s) indicated.

The information I have provided on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge and may be verified by *Transition Ministries ABCUSA*. I hereby authorize the Program to make any and all contacts necessary to verify my prior employment history, medical information, and to inquire concerning any prior arrest or criminal records or any professional, religious, or judicial proceedings involving me as a defendant. By means of this release I also authorize any previous employer, any physician who has treated me (specifically including any psychiatrist, mental health professional, or psychologist possessing information as to prior mental or emotional illnesses or drug or alcohol abuse), any professional pastoral care organization, any religious judicatory, and any law enforcement agencies or judicial authorities to release any and all requested information to *Transition Ministries ABCUSA*.

I have read this release and understand fully that the information obtained may be used to deny me acceptance or assignment by *Transition Ministries ABCUSA*. I also agree that I will hold harmless the American Baptist Churches USA and all American Baptist related organizations, as well as any prior employer, psychologist, psychiatrist, mental health professional, physician, professional pastoral care organization, religious judicatory, law enforcement authority, or judicial authority from any and all claims, liabilities, and cause of action for the release or the use of any information. My signature also indicates my commitment to notify *Transition Ministries ABCUSA* of any future related matters while enrolled in the program.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Signature |  | date |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Address |  |