

**Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)**  
Suggested Changes to the By-Laws of the Association  
Updated May 31, 2022

Over the past several years the Credentials Committee has been working on an update and consolidation of the several policies established over the past nine years:

1. **The Credentials Committee.** Passed at the Annual General Meeting on September 28, 2013, this policy established the Credential Committee and set out the procedures by which the Credentials Committee functions in granting and overseeing accreditation.
2. **Procedures for Ordination.** Passed February 28, 2015, this policy established the procedure for ordination.
3. **Authorization to Conduct Marriages.** Passed at a business session during the Rushton Lecture and Luncheon on June 6, 2015, this document established a policy for recommending authorization to conduct marriages.

This work is now complete, with all topics now included in the document titled Credentials Committee: Spring 2022.

The updated document includes not only the topics previously covered by the three policies it will replace, covering all aspects of Licensing, Ordination and Accreditation, but also establishes two tracks for CABF Accreditation: the Ordination Track which already existed and a new Accredited Lay Minister Track. Core Standards, Professional Standards, Ministerial Standards, Ethical Standards, and Educational Standards are established for both Tracks. The process for Authorization to Conduct Marriages and the process for Removal of Accreditation are also included.

In order to implement the changes that are included in the Credentials Committee Spring 2022 document it will be necessary to amend sections 54-58 of the existing CABF By-Laws, which were adopted October 3, 2020. The proposed amendments are highlighted in the attached excerpt from the CABF By-Laws.

Additionally, Council has approved a request from the Treasurer to change the date of the Association's Fiscal Year from December 31 to July 31.

# EXCERPTS FROM BY-LAWS OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR BAPTIST FREEDOMS

A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY  
Societies Act Chapter 435 RSNS 1989, Amended 1993, c. 42

## ORDINATION, APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL OF ~~CLERGY~~ACCREDITED MINISTERS

54. **~~Clergy~~Ministerial Credentials.** The CABF oversees a process by which a person having a sense of calling and the necessary education may receive the credentials necessary to become accredited by the CABF to perform ministry.
- (a) For candidates who are not ordained and who hold a Church Licence to Minister, a candidate may apply for a CABF Association Licence to Minister;
  - (b) For candidates who hold the appropriate Church and CABF Association licenses, a candidate may apply for designation as an Accredited Lay Minister;
  - ~~(b)~~(c) for candidates who hold the appropriate Church and CABF Association licenses, the CABF may organize an Ordination Examining Council; and
  - ~~(e)~~(d) for those who have been ordained by a body acceptable to the CABF, a candidate may apply to become accredited by the CABF.

In all cases, candidates must fulfill the requirements as established in the CABF Policy and Procedures Manual.

55. **~~Clergy~~—Accreditation.** ~~Clergy~~—Accreditation is an official declaration by the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms that a person meets the Association’s standards to be a CABF Accredited ~~member of the clergy~~Minister. ~~Clergy~~—Accreditation is a covenant relationship between the CABF and the persons the Association accredits. This allows ministers to meet certain professional requirements and have ‘denominational’ recognition for employment. It confirms that a minister is in good standing with the CABF and provides the minister with a professional ‘denominational’ identity. The CABF pledges to provide ongoing support to those who have attained CABF accreditation and who strive to maintain its standards. Accredited clergy agree to on-going participation in the life of the Association, as well as maintaining communication and accountability to the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms. Accreditation by the CABF does not preclude the holding of accreditation by other denominational bodies.
56. **Qualifications for Accreditation.** ~~Clergy~~—Accreditation is granted to individual ~~members of the clergy~~ministers who:
- (1) successfully complete requirements overseen by the CABF Credentials Committee, which address the ~~following~~—core professional, ministerial, ethical and educational standards through a process of written papers, interviews, and mutual discernment. ~~(Details of these standards are found in the Policy and Procedures Manual.)~~

- ~~Ordination~~
- ~~Ministerial and theological integrity~~
- ~~Good standing and accountability within the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms~~
- ~~Ability to work in ways that promote equity, collegiality, and diversity~~
- ~~Willingness to affirm the Covenant and share the mission of CABF~~
- ~~Commitment to sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ~~
- ~~Continuing spiritual formation and growth~~
- ~~Academic education, self reflection training, and professional experience~~

57. **Authorization to Conduct Marriages.** ~~The Credentials Committee may recommend to the provincial authority that a person be authorized to conduct marriages.~~ On the recommendation of the Credentials Committee, CABF accredited ministers may be listed with their respective Provincial or Territorial Department of Vital Statistics or other appropriate Register or office for authorization to officiate, conduct or solemnize marriages. The scope and details of this authorization are found in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

58. **Dismissal of ~~Clergy~~ Accredited Ministers.** The Credentials Committee is charged by the Council to create and review from time to time and revise as required, and then to administer and follow a process whereby ~~members of the clergy~~ CABF accredited ministers ~~accredited by the CABF~~ may have that accreditation removed. There shall also be a process and means whereby any decision of the ~~Accreditation~~ Credentials Committee may be appealed. These processes as they are created or revised, and approved by Council, shall be communicated to, and subject to approval by, the members at the next succeeding meeting of Members. Details of the procedure are contained in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

## FINANCE

59. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year end of the Association shall be the last day of ~~December~~ July.