

Suggested OCBA By-Laws Amendment - “Steps In The Ordination Process Within the Old Colony Baptist Association

Before the Ordination Council

5. The candidate will meet with the COM at the appointed time and present his or her paper. It is expected that the candidate will appear by her or himself. The paper should include the following elements.

- A. Christian Experience
- B. Call to the Ministry
- C. Theological Views
 - 1. God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit
 - 2. Scripture
 - 3. Humanity, Sin
 - 4. The Church
 - 5. Role of the Pastor and laity in ministry
- D. Understanding of American Baptist Polity
- E. Attitude toward the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and its ecumenical witness.

Here there follow two additional paragraphs concerning how the COM will interview the candidate and actions the COM might take.

--- Suggested Emendation

5. The candidate will meet with the COM at the appointed time and present his or her paper. It is expected that the candidate will appear by her or himself. The paper should include the following elements.

- A. The candidate’s faith journey and Christian experience, and call to the ministry**
- B. The candidate’s theological understanding of:**
 - > **God**
 - > **Jesus Christ**
 - > **Holy Spirit**
 - > **humanity**
 - > **salvation**
 - > **scripture**
 - > **the Church (and its role in society and the world)**
 - **the ordinances (baptism and the Lord’s Supper)**
 - **the candidate’s attitude toward the American Baptist Churches USA, its ecumenical witness, and Code of Ethics**
 - **Other issues –a narrative of other issues which are not included in the above, for which the candidate may have compassion as a minister of the gospel.**

Section 5 would then continue with the additional paragraphs as stated in the Old Colony document.

The purpose of this amendment is to bring the Old Colony By-laws into line with the TABCOM “Guideline for the Ordination Paper You Will Present to the Ordination Council” – prepared in November 1994, at a meeting of the TABCOM Association Committee on the Ministry Chairpersons.