Dear Friend:

Thank you for your interest in being endorsed through the Alliance of Baptists. Below you will find an outline of the endorsement application process and its requirements, guidelines for transferring endorsement, additional endorsement information, and the endorsement application. The Endorsement Reference Form is available as a separate document.

Please return your completed application and all accompanying materials electronically to Carole Collins, the Alliance’s Endorser, at carole@allianceofbaptists.org. Within six weeks of submitting your application, an Endorsement Council member will call you for a phone interview. The Endorsement Council will review your application materials and the results of your interview. The Council will make a recommendation to the Board Committee on Endorsement and Clergy Recognition. It is the intent of the Alliance to notify you of the Board’s decision according to the schedule below. If the decision will be delayed beyond these dates, you will be informed of the delay.

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<tr>
<th>Applications submitted by:</th>
<th>Decision rendered by:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>March 31</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>June 30</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
<td>September 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>December 31</td>
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If you have questions about any part of this application process, please contact Carole Collins. Thank you for your faithfulness to ministry in your specialized setting and your commitment to the Alliance of Baptists.

Faithfully,

Peggy Sanderford Ponder, Chair
Endorsement Council

Carole Collins, Endorser
ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION PROCESS
ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS

Endorsement is an official declaration by the Alliance of Baptists that a person meets the Alliance’s standards to serve in a specialized ministry setting of chaplaincy, counseling, or clinical education.

Endorsement is an exclusive covenant relationship between the Alliance of Baptists and the clergypersons the Alliance endorses. The Alliance will seek to provide support and discernment to those seeking to enter pastoral care ministry and to provide guidance, support, and oversight to those who serve in these ministries. The endorsed clergy persons agree to ongoing participation in the life of the Alliance, as well as maintaining communication and accountability to the Alliance.

Endorsement addresses the following core standards through a process of written papers, interviews, and mutual discernment:

- Academic and clinical education
- Ministerial and theological integrity
- Ministry practice congruent with the Alliance Covenant and Mission
- Ability to work in ways that promote equity, collegiality, and diversity in pluralistic environments
- Ongoing spiritual formation and growth

Required Materials

Prerequisites
1. Ordination to the gospel ministry by a congregation affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists or a congregation from the Free Church tradition (e.g., United Church of Christ, Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, American Baptist Churches USA, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Southern Baptist Convention etc.). Ordination from denominations outside the Free Church tradition may be accepted if recognized by a local congregation from the free church tradition or a year of active immersion in a free church tradition.

2. All applicants must demonstrate a one year relationship with the Alliance of Baptists in one of the following ways prior to application:
   a) Individual membership and actively participating in the Alliance for one year
   b) Membership in an Alliance affiliated congregation for one year
   c) Ordination by an Alliance affiliated congregation one year prior to application.
   d) Attend an Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering and contact Alliance staff about endorsement within 6 month of attending the Annual Gathering.

*Please note that endorsed clergy will be expected to maintain individual membership at a giving level of at least $150 to the Alliance per year.*
Materials

The following are required for your application for endorsement to be considered:

1. A letter signifying active participation in a local congregation that is nurturing the minister in faith and vocational identity for at least the two most recent years.
2. Completed Endorsement Application Form.
3. Two original reflections written for this application:
   
   A) A reflection on your life story on 1-2 pages that includes the following:
      Your family of origin
      The influences that have shaped you
      The primary relationships that are important in sustaining you today.
   
   B) A reflection on your faith journey, and vocation on 3-5 pages that includes at minimum the following:
      How your faith has changed, grown and matured over your lifespan
      What beliefs are important to you
      How your beliefs shape your spiritual life and ministry
      How you actively engage in and practice your faith
      How you have experienced and pursued your call to ministry
      How have you experience and lived out your pastoral identity and authority

4. A reflection of your identity as an Alliance of Baptists minister on 2-4 pages that includes at minimum the following:
   When and why you became involved in the Alliance of Baptists
   How you have been actively engaged in the Alliance of Baptists
   How you engage the Alliance Covenant & Mission in your life and ministry including any beliefs you do not share
   How you hope to nurture and deepen your relationship with the Alliance of Baptists

5. A reflection on 2-4 pages discussing the intersection of your call to specialized ministry that includes the following:
   - Share the story of your call to specialized ministry
   - Why you are seeking endorsement with the Alliance of Baptists
   - What institutions and/or organizations require your endorsement
   - Your present occupation and any plans/hopes for future employment
   - How your understanding of your Christian faith prepares you to minister in an ecumenical and interfaith setting

6. A reflection on 1-2 pages describing how your understanding of the Alliance Covenantal Code of Ethics for Endorsed Clergy and your professional code(s) of ethics mutually inform one another.

7. A reflection on 1-2 pages describing your active participation in a local congregation that provides you with the opportunity to worship, learn, and grow, as well as to be supported, nurtured, and challenged in your faith. Demonstrate that it is a congregation where you can offer your sacred gifts as well as receive from others.
8. Educational Requirements: A graduate theological degree from a school that is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools is preferred. Education from other schools accredited by other accreditation groups that are part of Council for Higher Education Accreditation will be considered. The applicant must provide official copies of transcripts of earned educational credits. While seminary study remains a centerpiece for clergy preparation, a candidate can petition for an educational equivalency based on the information included in Appendix 1. Candidates who are seeking an educational equivalency should submit information establishing such equivalency to the Endorser for determination prior to completing the application for Clergy Recognition. For applicants with a master's degree in theological studies obtained from an institution outside of the United States or Canada (i.e., countries beyond the scope of Association of Theological Schools accreditation), an audit of the transcript may be required. Costs for the international degree audit will be the responsibility of the applicant. If the degree from an international institution is determined not to meet the educational requirement listed above, the candidate will need to complete a "Request for Educational Equivalencies" (see Appendix 1).

9. At least two years of pastoral/spiritual leadership experience in a congregation or specialized ministry setting. One year of clinical pastoral education Residency will satisfy one year of the requirements for endorsement. (Provide letter(s) verifying pastoral/spiritual leadership. Please note that some endorsing and certifying bodies require three years.)

10. At least one satisfactorily completed unit of Clinical Pastoral Education from an ACPE accredited CPE center. For those taking more than one unit of CPE, a CPE residency is recommended. Other accredited CPE or supervised self-reflective training experiences may qualify for equivalency for ACPE CPE. (Provide letter of verification or certificate of completed CPE units or equivalency.)

Please note:
- Endorsement for pastoral counselors will be based on the criteria for certified membership in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.
- Endorsement for chaplains will be based on the criteria for certified membership in the Association of Professional Chaplains.
- Endorsement for clinical pastoral supervisors will be based on the criteria for certified supervisors in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.
- Military applicants’ experience and training will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

11. Two completed Endorsement Reference Forms dated within the last six months: one from a supervisor and one from a professional reference. (Sign forms and send to references to be submitted directly).


13. Completed Endorsement Checklist. (See Endorsement Application.)
Additional Materials
If candidate is endorsed by another denomination, please provide a statement of the reason to transfer endorsement to the Alliance of Baptists on the Endorsement Application Form. Please see “Guidelines for Transferring Endorsement” in this document.

Application Submission
All completed materials must be submitted electronically to Carole Collins at carole@allianceofbaptists.org.

Following Endorsement
In order to maintain endorsement with the Alliance of Baptists all endorsed chaplains, pastoral counselors, and CPE supervisors agree to:

1. Participate actively in a local congregation;
2. Make an annual financial contribution to the Alliance of Baptists of a minimum of $150 to maintain membership;
3. Submit an Annual Report including affirmation of the Covenantal Code of Ethics for Recognized Clergy for the Alliance of Baptists by February 1 of each calendar year;
4. Notify the Alliance of Baptists Endorser of any change of ministry setting and any legal, ethical, or professional actions filed against the person within one month of the change;
5. Attend the Annual Alliance of Baptists Gathering at least once every three years. Attendance at Alliance gatherings is required in order to foster relationships within and among the Alliance of Baptists family and nurture the well-being and potential for ministry of those recognized by this process;
6. Complete at least 6 contact hours in clinical or professional ethics every 5 years.
GUIDELINES FOR TRANSFERRING ENDORSEMENT

The Alliance of Baptists operates with openness and respect as it communicates with endorsed persons and other endorsing bodies on sensitive issues related to changing endorsement. In cooperation with other endorsing agencies, the Alliance of Baptists seeks to:

- Maintain the integrity of pastoral care, counseling, and education in specialized ministry;
- Ensure protection and quality ministry to those receiving pastoral service;
- Respect the theological integrity and practices of endorsing agencies and faith groups.

The endorsement process is a mutual trust relationship. A change in endorsers means a change in faith group affiliation. Since one can only be endorsed by one faith group at a time, such a change can be complicated for the various relationships involved: the endorsed person, the endorsers (current and future), and the employing agency/professional organization.

Each request to change endorsing bodies will be considered individually by the Alliance of Baptists. When an endorsed person in specialized ministry feels the need or the call to change faith group affiliation and endorsement, the following guidelines will inform that process:

- Endorsed person completes the Alliance of Baptists Endorsement Application Process.
- After application to the Alliance of Baptists has been considered and accepted, but before endorsement with the Alliance of Baptists can be formally granted, the Alliance of Baptists endorser contacts the current endorser to inquire if there are any impediments or just cause not to proceed. For military chaplains, the endorser will use the NCMAF suggested letter.
- Alliance Endorser informs current (previous) endorser when the process has been completed.
- Previous endorser notifies appropriate agencies of endorsement withdrawal and provides copies of those letters to new endorser.
- The Alliance sends confirmation of Alliance endorsement to appropriate certifying organizations, employers, and institutions as identified by endorsed person. Copies of confirmation will also be sent to endorsed person.
- It is the responsibility of the newly endorsed person to see that these procedures are followed.
ADDITIONAL ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURES

1. Inactive Status
   Because endorsement is to a particular ministry setting, the status of an endorsed minister becomes “inactive” at the time when that minister is no longer serving in the position to which s/he is endorsed. If a minister is no longer serving in the position to which s/he is endorsed, the minister shall notify the Endorser. Upon such notification, the Endorser shall change the status of the minister to “inactive”. When the minister accepts another position as minister within a specialized setting, s/he may apply for active status by contacting the Endorser. If this request occurs within two years of inactive status, the minister may request the Endorser for a new endorsement to be issued. After notice to the Board Committee on Clergy Recognition and Endorsement, the Endorser may issue a new endorsement. If this request occurs more than two years from inactive status, the Endorser will work with the Endorsement Council and the Board Committee on Clergy Recognition and Endorsement to determine what, if any, further communication from the applicant is necessary, including and up to completing the entire application process.

2. Change in Ministry Setting and Level of Certification of Endorsement
   Endorsement is to particular ministry setting and level of certification. Endorsement may be transferred from one ministry setting or level of certification to another when requested by the endorsed minister. The endorsed person must notify the Endorser of such a change within one month of the change and include a brief description for such change.

3. Revocation of Endorsement
   If an endorsed minister fails to submit the items required to maintain endorsement by November 1, the Endorser will contact the endorsed minister to inform her/him that her/his status is in jeopardy. If the items are not submitted within sixty days of notice by the Endorser, the Endorser shall send written notice to the endorsed minister that if the deficiency is not corrected within thirty days endorsement will be terminated. The Endorser will be responsible to inform the endorsed member and any of the certifying body(ies) of the revocation of endorsement.

Updated March 7, 2015
**ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION FORM**  
**ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS**

This form is one part of applying for endorsement with the Alliance of Baptists. Please read the “Endorsement Application Process & Procedures” carefully and submit this form and all other application materials.

**PART I: PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Address:</td>
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<td>City, State, and Zip Code:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
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<td>Home Phone:</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
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<td>Citizenship: □ U.S. □ Other:</td>
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<td>Date of Birth:</td>
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<td>Social Security #:</td>
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<td>Driver’s License Number:</td>
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**Local Congregation**

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<th>Name:</th>
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Roles and Involvement (other than employment):

**Activities & Interests**  
Involvement in Community, Ecumenical, Spiritual, and other Ecclesial

Activities: Interests and Hobbies:
**PART II: PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION**

### Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Work Address:</td>
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<td>Work Phone:</td>
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<td>Work Email:</td>
<td>Website:</td>
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<td>Immediate Supervisor Name &amp; Title:</td>
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- [ ] Full-time  [ ] Part-time  [ ] PRN  [ ] Volunteer

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<tbody>
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<td>Work Email:</td>
<td>Website:</td>
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<td>Immediate Supervisor Name &amp; Title:</td>
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- [ ] Full-time  [ ] Part-time  [ ] PRN  [ ] Volunteer

### Ordination

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<td>Phone:</td>
<td>Website:</td>
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*(For those currently seeking ordination with an Alliance-affiliated congregation, please provide letter from the congregation detailing where candidate is in the process.)*

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<tr>
<th>Congregation:</th>
<th>Projected Ordination Date:</th>
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<td>Address:</td>
<td>Website:</td>
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<td>Phone:</td>
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<td>Employer</td>
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### Higher Education

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### Clinical Pastoral Education

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<th>Dates</th>
<th># of Units</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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### Pastoral Counseling Education

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### Certification (Please list any professional organizations with whom you are certified.)

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<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
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### Licensure (If applicable)

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<th>State License</th>
<th>Field (LPC, BCSW, etc.)</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
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</table>
**PART III: NOTIFICATION**
Please list employer and professional organizations for which you are seeking endorsement and to whom notice of endorsement is to be sent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Person to Notify:</td>
<td>Job Title:</td>
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**PART IV: ETHICAL PRACTICE**

Outside of your place of employment, what professional organizations’ code of ethics do you subscribe to?

Are you in compliance with your code of ethics?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

Have allegations of misconduct including but not limited to sexual harassment, exploitation or misconduct, physical abuse, child abuse, or financial misconduct:

- ☐ led to civil, criminal, ethical, professional, or ecclesiastical complaint(s) being filed against you?  
  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
- ☐ led to your resignation, termination or transfer from a position?  
  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
- ☐ led you to resign, terminate or transfer from a position to avoid such charges?  
  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
- ☐ led to your conviction of a misdemeanor or a felony?  
  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Please include an explanation for each incident or action that caused you to answer “yes.” Please include the date, nature, and place of each incident; where and when each was adjudicated; or the disposition. Indicate steps taken toward resolution, if any.

Has your driver’s license been suspended or revoked within the last five years due to reckless driving or driving while intoxicated and/or under the influence of a controlled substance.  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

In your judgment, are there any facts or circumstances involving you or your background that would warrant further review before you are entrusted with the responsibilities of ministry on behalf of a calling body of the Alliance of Baptists?

☐ Yes  ☐ No
Please include an explanation for each incident or action that caused you to answer “yes.” Please include the date, nature, and place of each incident; where and when each was adjudicated; or the disposition. Indicate steps taken toward resolution, if any.

_I recognize my responsibility to update this misconduct disclosure in a timely manner should there be a change of status in any of the issues named above._

**PART V: STATEMENT TO CHANGE ENDORSEMENT**

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<th>Current Endorsing Body:</th>
<th>Contact Person:</th>
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Statement of reason to change / transfer endorsement to the Alliance of Baptists:
PART VI: ENDORSEMENT CHECKLIST

Please complete the following checklist and submit with your application materials. The materials are required for your application for endorsement to be considered (please see the Endorsement Application Process & Procedures for more information):

Completed

☐ Ordination certificate OR Letter from congregation preparing to ordain candidate
☐ Connection & identity with Alliance of Baptists demonstrated by one of the following:
  a) individual membership in the Alliance for at least one year before application; or
  b) membership in an Alliance affiliated congregation for one year; or
  c) ordination by an Alliance affiliated congregation one year prior to application.
☐ Letter signifying active participation in a local congregation that is nurturing your faith and vocational identity for at least two years.
☐ Endorsement Application Form
☐ Reflection – Life Story, Faith Journey, & Vocation
☐ Reflection – Identity as Alliance minister
☐ Reflection – Call to Specialized Ministry
☐ Reflection – Alliance Code of Ethics for Endorsed Clergy
☐ Reflection – Participation and engagement in local congregation
☐ Verification of education – official transcripts
☐ Letter(s) to verify two years of pastoral leadership experience
  Letter(s) from:
☐ Current Photo
☐ Letter / Certificate to verify completed clinical training
☐ Endorsement Reference Form sent to References:
  Name of Supervisor:
  Name of Professional Reference:
☐ Signed Authorization for Release of Personal Information, Accuracy of Statements, Indemnification of Alliance, and Release of Claims Against the Alliance
☐ Signed Covenantal Code of Ethics for Endorsed Clergy
☐ Signed Alliance of Baptists Complaint Policy
☐ Application Fee for Background Check - $125.00
Part VII: Authorization for Release Of Personal Information, Confirmation of Accuracy of Statements, Indemnification of Alliance, and Release of Claims Against the Alliance

I am submitting this application to the Alliance as part of the Endorsement Process of the Alliance. I agree to cooperate with the Alliance, and to abide by all decisions of the Alliance. I understand and agree that the Alliance has the sole authority to grant or deny Endorsement, in its sole discretion, and that the decision of the Alliance to grant or deny endorsement is final and not subject to appeal or review. Further, if the Alliance should determine that my endorsement should be withdrawn, I agree to abide by that decision, which I agree shall be final and shall not be subject to review. I understand that there is no contractual right to endorsement by the Alliance, that the Alliance may decide to withdraw my recognition in its discretion at any time, and that I will have no legal claim of any kind against the Alliance as a result of any decision to grant, deny or withdraw endorsement.

I confirm that the information provided on this application, and any information I may provide at any time during the application process, is accurate and complete. I understand that the Alliance will rely on the statements I am making in this application and during the application process. I agree that all of the information provided in this application and in the application process may be verified by the Alliance or anyone acting on behalf of the Alliance. I authorize the Alliance, or anyone acting on their behalf, to make any and all contacts necessary to verify my history of prior employment, and to inquire regarding any prior arrest, criminal records, professional, religious, or judicial proceedings involving me as a defendant. I authorize the Alliance, or anyone acting on their behalf, to make whatever contacts the Alliance considers necessary in order to obtain any other information the Alliance considers necessary in order to decide on my Application, including but not limited to contacting individuals, churches and organizations listed on this Application as references.

I hereby authorize previous employers, any pastoral care organizations, and any religious judicatory and/or any law enforcement or judicial authority to release any and all requested information about me. I hereby authorize any individuals, churches, or other organizations listed on this Application to provide any and all requested information directly to the Alliance or anyone acting on their behalf. I agree to sign any additional authorizations that may be necessary for the Alliance to obtain this information. I will pay for any additional costs for the mandatory background check.

I have thoroughly read this document, and I understand its terms. I understand fully that the information obtained from other parties may be used to deny my endorsement from the Alliance of Baptists. I understand that the Alliance has no independent obligation to verify the accuracy of any information received from those other parties.

I understand and agree that being endorsed by the Alliance of Baptists does not create any employment relationship with the Alliance, or establish any other kind of supervisory relationship with the Alliance. I agree that if I am endorsed by the Alliance of Baptists, I will not tell anyone that I have any kind of employment or supervisory relationship with the Alliance.
I understand and agree that the Alliance is relying upon the accuracy and completeness of my statements in this Application, and during the Application process, in making any decisions about Endorsement. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Alliance against any claims against the Alliance based upon or arising from (i) any actions I may take during the time that I am Endorsed by the Alliance, or (ii) any information that I have supplied to the Alliance as part of this process. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Alliance against any claims based upon or arising from any statements that I may make that misrepresent the nature of my relationship with the Alliance. Finally, I hereby release any and all claims that I may have against the Alliance as a result of my Application for Endorsement, including without limitation claims based upon or arising from (i) actions that the Alliance may take in contacting any third-party as part of that process, or (ii) any actions that the Alliance may take during the time that the Alliance has granted me Endorsement, or (iii) any decision by the Alliance to deny Endorsement or to withdraw Endorsement once granted.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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My full name typed in the above Signature box serves as my legal signature.

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL
ART VIII: COVENANTAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR ENDORSED CLERGY

As an endorsed clergyperson of the Alliance of Baptists, I make the following commitments:

☐ I will work cooperatively and collegially with those with whom I serve in the ministry to which I have been called.

☐ I will stand in a supportive relationship with my colleagues in ministry, offering and receiving counsel and support in times of need.

☐ I will maintain the highest ethical standards with colleagues, institutions, or congregations that employ me.

☐ I will recognize the power my ministry gives me and refrain from practices that are harmful to others and which endanger my integrity or my professional effectiveness.

☐ I will use my ministerial status, position and authority in ways that do not abuse, misguide, negatively influence, manipulate or take advantage of anyone, especially children.

☐ I will personally and professionally support persons who experience discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual identity, gender expression, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, national origin, religion, physical ability, or mental ability.

☐ I will seek to know, understand and respect the diversity of opinions, beliefs, and practices of others.

☐ I will be a good steward of that which God provides and handle my own finances and those of my partners in ministry and my place of employment honestly and with great care.

☐ I will seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and the practice of ministry through spiritual practices, study, professional development, and service.

☐ I will live a life that honors my commitments to myself and my loved ones, including the need for privacy, time apart, and time together.

☐ I will honor all confidences shared with me in my capacity as a clergyperson, unless not allowed by law, and I will maintain such confidentiality even when the pastoral relationship has ended.

☐ I will navigate transitions between ministries carefully to support the ministry of those who follow me as well as the well-being of those with whom I have had a pastoral relationship.

With God’s help and the help of my colleagues in ministry, I make this covenant.

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My full name typed in the above Signature box serves as my legal signature.
Part IX: Alliance of Baptists Complaint Policy

All complaints and reports of misconduct relating to Alliance of Baptists Endorsed Clergy or Alliance of Baptists Recognized Clergy will be handled as follows:

- Any member of the Alliance of Baptists Board, Alliance of Baptists staff or the Endorsing or Clergy Recognition Councils, who receives such information, shall promptly inform the President of the Alliance of Baptists of that information. Once the President has been informed, no further action shall be taken, except by the President, acting in consultation with legal counsel, or by legal counsel, as authorized by the Alliance of Baptists Board of Directors.

- After receiving such information, the President of the Alliance of Baptists shall promptly confer with legal counsel for the Alliance of Baptists, and take whatever action the President and legal counsel conclude is appropriate under the circumstances.

- The President of the Alliance of Baptists and legal counsel will consider how and when to consult with the Executive Committee and/or the full Board of Directors of the Alliance of Baptists, depending on the nature of the issues raised and the urgency of the matter.

- The President of the Alliance and legal counsel will consider whether consultation with the Clergy Recognition Council (for complaints regarding Recognized Clergy) or with the Endorsing Council (for complaints regarding Endorsed Clergy) is appropriate under the circumstances.

- The Alliance of Baptists’ response may include notification of Alliance of Baptists-affiliated congregations (for complaints regarding Recognized Clergy) or of certifying organizations and employers (for complaints regarding Endorsed Clergy), as is appropriate under the circumstances.

This policy shall not apply to reports of misconduct by Alliance of Baptists Employees, Officers or Directors, which shall be governed by the existing Whistleblower Resolution and procedures.

This policy shall be distributed annually to all Alliance of Baptists staff, all members of the Board of Directors of the Alliance of Baptists, all members of the Clergy Recognition Council and all members of the Endorsing Council.

Each person receiving the Policy shall sign and return a copy indicating that they understand the policy, have complied with it, and will comply with it. As part of the annual renewal process, Recognized Clergy and Endorsed Clergy shall indicate that they understand this policy, have complied with it, and will comply with it.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, Alliance of Baptists, May 1, 2014

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Updated March 7, 2015
Covenant

In a time when historic Baptist principles, freedoms, and traditions need a clear voice, and in our personal and corporate response to the call of God in Jesus Christ to be disciples and servants in the world, we commit ourselves to

- The freedom of the individual, led by God's Spirit within the family of faith, to read and interpret the Scriptures, relying on the historical understanding by the church and on the best methods of modern biblical study.

- The freedom of the local church under the authority of Jesus Christ to shape its own life and mission, call its own leadership, and ordain whom it perceives as gifted for ministry, male or female.

- The larger body of Jesus Christ, expressed in various Christian traditions, and to a cooperation with believers everywhere in giving full expression to the Gospel.

- The servant role of leadership within the church, following the model of our Servant Lord, and to full partnership of all of God's people in mission and ministry.

- Theological education in congregations, colleges, and seminaries characterized by reverence for biblical authority and respect for open inquiry and responsible scholarship.

- The proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ and the calling of God to all peoples to repentance and faith, reconciliation and hope, social and economic justice.

- The principle of a free church in a free state and the opposition to any effort either by church or state to use the other for its own purposes.
MISSION

To keep faith with our Covenant, we

- Make the worship of God primary in all our gatherings.
- Foster relationships within the Alliance and with other people of faith.
- Create places of refuge & renewal for those who are wounded or ignored by the church.
- Side with those who are poor.
- Pursue justice with and for those who are oppressed.
- Care for the earth.
- Work for peace.
- Honor wisdom and lifelong learning.
- Hold ourselves accountable for equity, collegiality, and diversity.
Appendix 1 - Request for Educational Equivalencies

As noted in the Educational Requirements, a master’s degree in theological studies from a school accredited by the Association of Theological Schools is the primary way to establish educational requirements for Clergy Recognition. However, recognizing that there are multiple paths of education and multiple ways to be formed for ministry, candidates can establish the educational requirements for Clergy Recognition with educational equivalencies. Candidates may submit an application for an education equivalency based on a combination of theological course work, vocational experience and formation including professional or volunteer experience. Such requests will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Clergy Recognition Council and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please submit a statement proposing an educational equivalency addressing the following requirements. Include a rationale for your request and enclose any additional documentation to support your request. Submit your documentation along with the Request for Educational Equivalency Form (below) to the Endorser, Carole Collins at carole@allianceofbaptists.org.

Requests for educational equivalency should demonstrate:

1. Thorough knowledge of the Bible demonstrated by course work (graduate level in a school accredited by an accrediting agency determined by the U.S. Secretary of Education to be reliable authorities as to the quality of education or training provided by the institutions of higher education programs they accredit).
2. Skill with methods of biblical interpretation, including the historical interpretive traditions of the church and contemporary methods, particularly those from historically underrepresented communities demonstrated by course work (graduate level in a school accredited by an accrediting agency determined by the U.S. Secretary of Education to be reliable authorities as to the quality of education or training provided by the institutions of higher education programs they accredit).
3. Knowledge of the history of the Christian church in the world
4. Deepening understanding of varied theological ways of thinking, including various theological heritages, liturgies and spiritual practices.
5. Experience in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue
6. Theological experience in cultural settings different from one’s own background
7. Knowledge gained in other ministerial training and experiences around best practices for ministers including clergy/pastoral ethics and pastoral care.
Request for Educational Equivalency

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Phone number: __________________________________ E-mail Address: ___________________________ Signature: ____________________ Date: ________

Submit this form with a statement proposing an educational equivalency addressing the requirements set forth in Appendix 1. Include a rationale for your request and enclose any additional documentation to support your request. Submit this to the Endorser, Carole Collins at carole@allianceofbaptists.org.

To be completed by the Endorser:
Request sent to: ___________________________ Date: ________

Equivalency request is: ☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved

Reason: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________