



JOURNEY TO  
ORDINATION



CANADIAN BAPTISTS  
of ATLANTIC CANADA



**WILL YOU...**

**join God in changing Atlantic  
Canada one neighbourhood at  
a time?**

# WHY ORDINATION?

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**Answer the Call**// You feel God has gifted you for and given you a passion for leadership in the local church. Others have seen those gifts and that passion within you. On the Journey to Ordination, you discover what it is to answer this call.

**Get the Skills**// Education and hands-on experience will support the gifts and passions God has given you to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and be God's love to others in the local church setting.

**Prepare for the Adventure**// Get practical and valuable training through CBAC events and resources. This training will equip you to lead and serve in the local church and engage the culture of the community.

**Join Something Bigger**// God is doing big things in Atlantic Canada. Ordination in the CBAC means joining God in something bigger than yourself. With a network of peers, mentors, churches, and CBAC staff who want to journey with you long-term as you join God's mission and the celebrations and challenges of local church leadership.

# MAP OF THE JOURNEY



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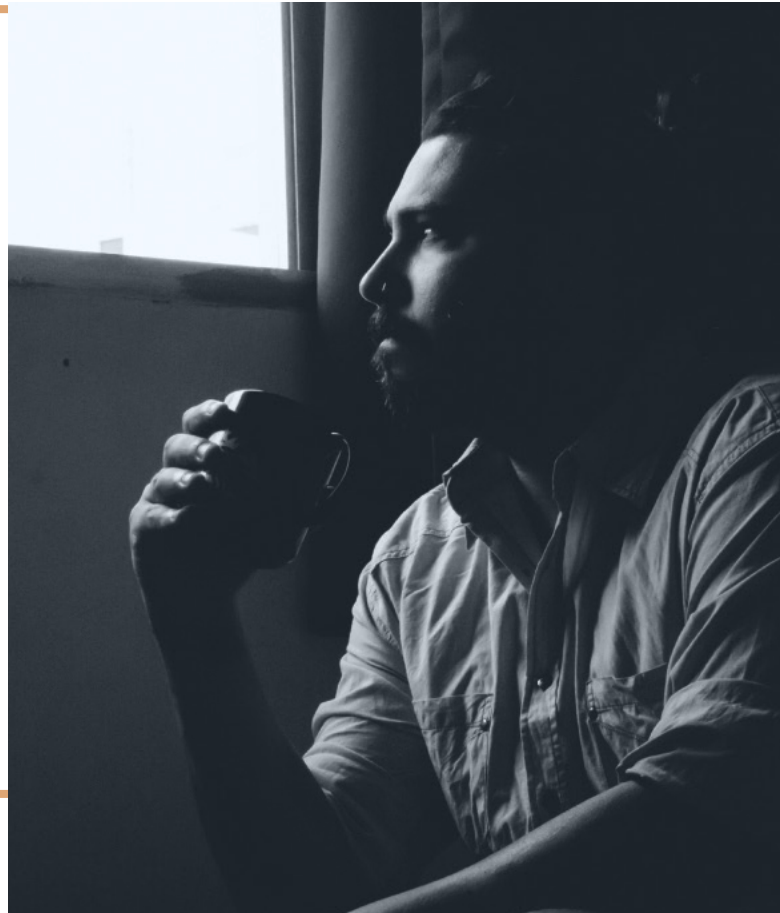
# IDENTIFICATION OF CALL

One way that God works to transform lives is to “call people to lead in local churches.

What does a call “look like ? It’s different for everyone, but the basics are usually similar:

Those who are called in this way:

- Have a love and passion for the Church, and seeing lives transformed by sharing the truth of Jesus’ love.
- Can’t picture doing anything else. They’re excited about what they do!
- Have spiritual gifts that support the call. Others have seen these passions and gifts and identified them.







# CHURCH LICENCE

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Receive a church licence from your local church. A church licence shows that your local church supports and affirms your calling: they're confident in you, and believe you're a good fit.

## Did You Know?

You are able to apply for a church licence after you've been a member at that church for 1 year. It must be renewed by the church every year, until you get your Association Licence to Minister.

# EXPLORE

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It's okay to not be sure if you are called to leadership in the local church. We want you to ask questions, to hear God, and to get feedback! We invite you to come to this CBAC event where you'll be free to:

Explore // your sense of calling, your unique giftings, and how God has designed you.

Listen // to what God may be saying to you about your call and direction.

Discover // how the CBAC can help equip and identify that call.







# INITIAL INTERVIEW

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The next step after receiving a church licence is an interview with the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education (BMSE).

The goal of this interview is for the board members to evaluate your calling, suitability, and fit for pastoral ministry within the CBAC.



# EDUCATION

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We want to equip you for leadership through professional education. Education at ADC (or another ATS accredited school) will give you the skills and training to prepare for the journey of pastoral ministry. You'll learn to think on a deeper level about the Bible, ministry, and engaging culture. This is the kind of education that challenges and changes you: you won't leave the same way as when you came.





## **Attend ADC or Other ATS Accredited School**

Acadia Divinity College is a seminary owned by the CBAC located in Wolfville, NS.



## **Age 35-55 Bachelor of Theology**

If you are between the ages 35-55 you are required to have or complete a Bachelor of Theology



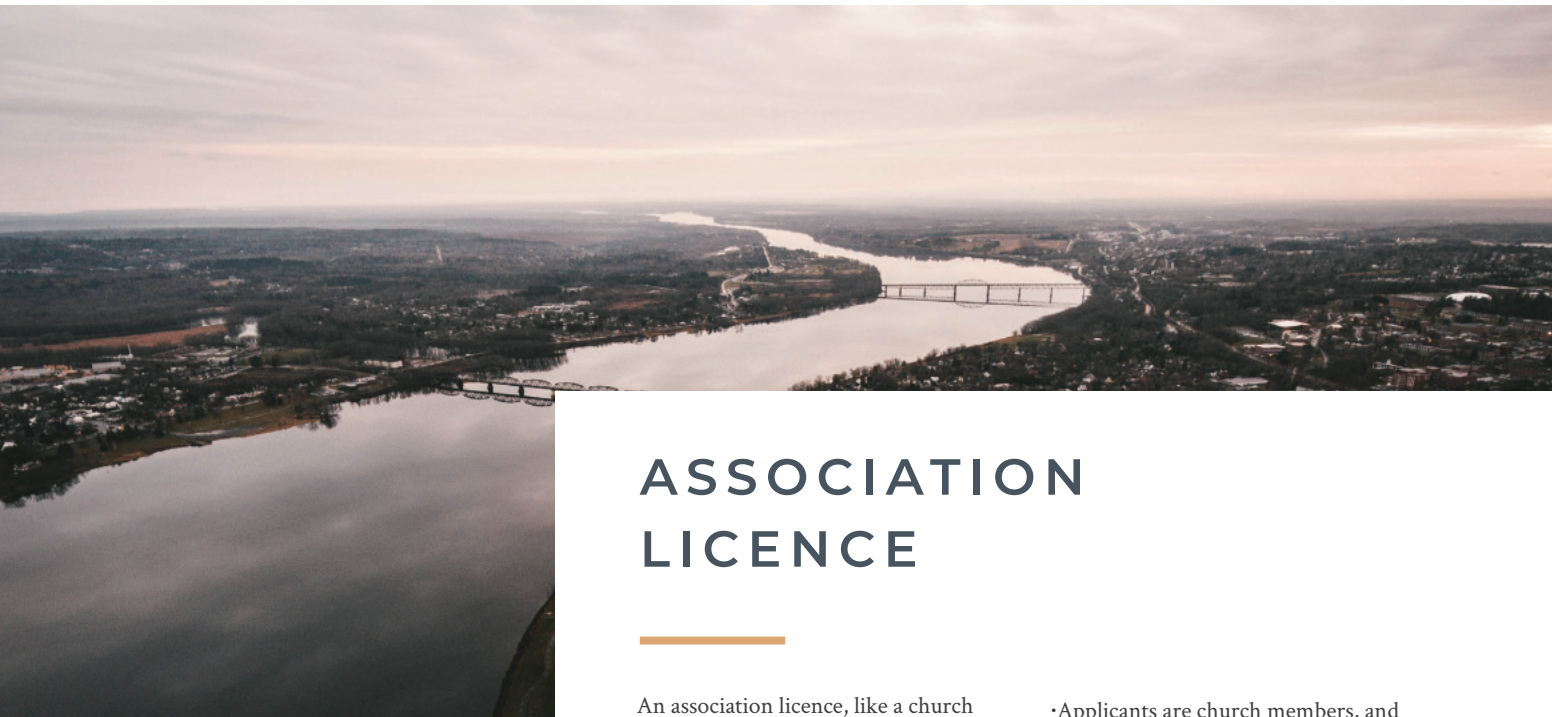
## **Age 35 and Under Masters of Divinity**

If you are under 35 years of age you are required to have or complete a Masters of Divinity.



## **Age 55+ Certificate of Ministerial Studies**

If you are 55+ the minimum requirement is a Certificate of Ministerial Studies.



# ASSOCIATION LICENCE

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## **DID YOU KNOW?**

You need to hold a church license for 1 year before applying for an

*10* Association License.

An association licence, like a church licence, is an affirmation and recommendation of your calling. It is different in a church licence in a few ways:

- Applicants are church members, and actively involved in ministry
- Applicants are making progress in their education required for ordination
- It is given by a committee of the Association, rather than the local church



# EXIT INTERVIEW

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The exit interview acts like a “part 2” to the initial interview. The educational experience will change or refine the way you think about theology and your calling.

The goal of the exit interview is for the board members to hear and understand how you have been shaped by your education and experience. This will help them to further evaluate your calling, suitability, and fit for pastoral ministry within the CBAC.





## RECEIVING A CALL

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An open ended calling from a local church will give you a place to gain experience through a year of internship (see next section). CBAC encourages local churches and pastors receiving a call to see it as long term relationship. One that will bring life to both the church and the pastor for years to come.

CBAC can help assist both the pastor and local church in connecting to one another through their support systems. For more information contact the CBAC office.





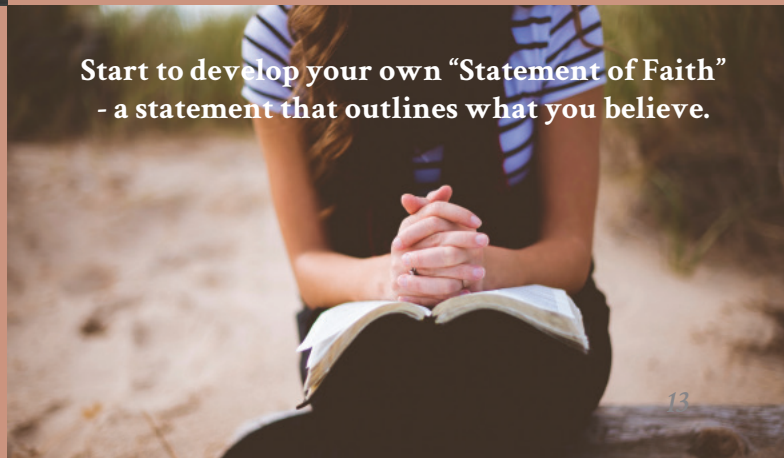
## YEAR OF INTERNSHIP

We get that education is more than what happens in the classroom. The year of internship gives you hands-on experience in the local church. Be mentored and encouraged by a pastor who has “been there” and see the transforming love of God working in the lives of people first hand.

### Did You Know?

Your internship must include a minimum of 25 hours of ministry per week. This is not limited to just Sunday morning activities. In bi-vocational or part-time contexts that are below the required 25 hrs./wk will require ministry beyond Sunday morning activities. For a wholistic experience it may require time volunteering in community ministries as well.

Start to develop your own “Statement of Faith”  
- a statement that outlines what you believe.



# EXAMINING COUNCIL

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The next step is to go before the Examining Council for Ordination. The local church makes a request for this on your behalf.

The Council discerns your readiness for vocational ministry, and ordination to Pastoral Ministry. Here, you will discuss and defend your Statement of Faith.

(definition of statement of faith: 2,000-2,500 words including your conversion, call to ministry, concept of ministry, Baptist Beliefs, supported by Scripture references, and their relationship to the CBAC).



# ORDINATION

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*You made it! In the CBAC, the local church holds a “Service of Ordination”: this service celebrates and officially ordains you into Pastoral Ministry in the CBAC.*





# GOING FORWARD WHAT NOW?

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The journey doesn't stop here. The CBAC offers more education, retreats, and conferences for your own personal and professional development!





FIND  
OUT  
MORE

[YOURCALLING.CA](http://YOURCALLING.CA)  
[BAPTIST-ATLANTIC.CA](http://BAPTIST-ATLANTIC.CA)

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