

# The Accreditation & Ordination Process of CBOQ

## [ THE SHORT VERSION ]

**CBOQ IS A FAMILY OF CHURCHES** which voluntarily associate together. As such it is not a denomination. CBOQ equips churches and leaders as they engage in their mission from God in their community. That is why we place a high value on the process of ordination and accreditation.

**While ordination is a time-honoured confirmation of one's call to Christian ministry, accreditation is the confirmation of an individual's professional status.**

This document seeks to provide a quick overview of the process of accreditation and ordination in CBOQ.

It does not replace the *CBOQ Accreditation, Ordination and Induction Manual* found on [baptist.ca](http://baptist.ca). The Manual should be referred to by those who enter the process of accreditation and/or seek ordination.

**CBOQ recognizes women in ministry. It affirms and confirms their ministry through ordination and accreditation.**



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## Accreditation vs. Ordination

CBOQ affirms the right of the local church to ordain, that is the setting apart as a recognition and commissioning of a person's call from God, his or her spiritual gifts, suitability, and training for Christian ministry. That is why it is the local church, along with other churches in their Association that examine a candidate and confirms their call.

CBOQ, on the other hand, accredits pastoral leaders. In other words, they ensure that a person has attained the proper level of education for the ministry he or she is called to perform, is competent in the skills required, and possess the suitable character to fulfil their calling. Thus, through the process of accreditation, CBOQ ensures the professionalism of its pastoral leaders and holds them accountable.



## Why Should I Be Accredited by CBOQ?

- It strengthens the relationship among churches and pastoral leaders by ensuring there is a standard for the practice of ministry.
- As pastoral leaders move from one setting to another, it gives congregation an assurance of solid, shared commitments.
- It confirms to the broader constituency your suitability as a pastoral leader for service in the Christian community.
- It provides professional accountability which is recognised in the Christian community and beyond.
- It confirms your professional status with government and non-government agencies.
- It establishes levels of accreditation which helps determining your recommended salary level.
- Ordination enables you to receive a license to officiate at weddings in Ontario.

## How Do I Become Accredited (and Ordained)?

While the local church can call and ordain anyone it wishes, CBOQ only accredits those who meet specific professional requirements. Below are the steps the Credentials Committee takes to determine the suitability of a candidate for accreditation, according to different scenarios.

### SCENARIO 1 –

**Transferring from a non-Canadian Baptist (CBAC, CBWC, UEBFC) denomination and already ordained and accredited by that denomination.**

**STEP 1:** Officially called as a ministry leader in a CBOQ church/ministry and recognized by the local church in a ministry position.

**STEP 2:** Apply for Accreditation to CBOQ. This is done by using Form 1A in the Manual (*found at baptist.ca*). This form should be signed and sent by mail or PDF, along with the documentation requested on the form. Upon reception of the form, you will be advised to go on to step 3.

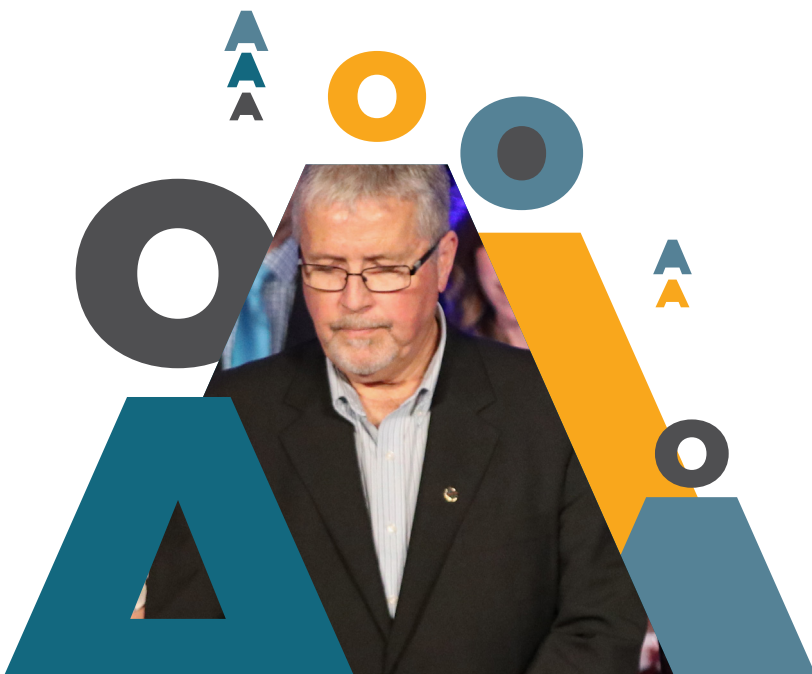
**STEP 3:** Meet with the local Association Ministry Committee. After this interview, the Committee will advise CBOQ on going forward.

**STEP 4:** Attend the New Pastors' Orientation event a Baptist History and Polity course from McMaster Divinity College, Acadia Divinity College or Carey Hall.

**STEP 5:** Supervision by a mutually agreed upon CBOQ supervisor for up to one year.

**STEP 6:** Meet with Credentials Committee when supervision is completed. Note that meeting with the Credentials Committee can only happen once all required documentation enumerated in Form 1A is received by CBOQ.

**STEP 7:** Full Accreditation by CBOQ at proper level. (See FAQ at end of document.)



## SCENARIO 2 –

**Transferring from a Canadian Baptist family of churches (CBAC, CBWC, or UEBFC) and already ordained and accredited by that family of churches.**

**STEP 1:** Officially called as a ministry leader in a CBOQ church/ministry and recognized by the local church in a ministry position.

**STEP 2:** Apply for Accreditation to CBOQ. This is done by using Form 1A in the Manual (*found at baptist.ca*). This form should be signed and sent by mail or PDF, along with the documentation requested on the form. Upon reception of the form, you will be advised to go on to step 3.

**STEP 3:** Meet with the local Association Ministry Committee. After this interview, the Committee will advise CBOQ on going forward.

**STEP 4:** Attend the New Pastors' Orientation event.

**STEP 5:** Your request of transfer is brought forth to Credentials Committee. Note that this step can only happen once all required documentation enumerated on Form 1A is received by CBOQ.

**STEP 6:** Full Accreditation by CBOQ at proper level. (*see FAQ at end of document*)

## SCENARIO 3 –

**New to pastoral ministry or never have been ordained or accredited but having theological education necessary for ordination. (*See FAQ at end of document*)**

**STEP 1:** Officially called as a ministry leader in a CBOQ church/ministry and recognized by the local church in a ministry position.

**STEP 2:** Apply for Accreditation to CBOQ. This is done by using Form 1 in the Manual (*found at baptist.ca*). This form should be signed and sent by mail or PDF, along with the documentation requested on the form. Upon reception of the form, you will be advised to go on to step 3.

**STEP 3:** Meet with the local Association Ministry Committee. After this interview, the Committee will advise CBOQ on going forward.

**STEP 4:** Attend the New Pastors' Orientation event. Attend the New Pastors' Orientation event and complete a Baptist History and Polity course from McMaster Divinity College, Acadia Divinity College or Carey Hall if not already taken.

**STEP 5:** Supervision by a mutually agreed upon CBOQ supervisor for one year.

**STEP 6:** Once supervision is completed, meet with the local Association Ministry Committee for a second time. The Committee will advise CBOQ on going forward.

**STEP 7:** Meet with the Credentials Committee. Note that meeting with the Credentials Committee can only happen once all required documentation enumerated on Form 1 is received by CBOQ.

**STEP 8:** Ordination process led by local CBOQ church. (*The steps are found in the Manual*)

**STEP 9:** Full Accreditation by CBOQ at proper level. (*see FAQ at end of document*)



## SCENARIO 4 –

### Those sensing God’s call to pastoral ministry and not having any theological education.

**STEP 1:** Approach CBOQ local church pastor.  
Be a member of a CBOQ church.

**STEP 2:** Work or volunteer at local CBOQ church.  
Meet with Pastoral Leaders Development Associate.

**STEP 3:** Apply for Accreditation to CBOQ. This is done by using Form 1 in the Manual (found at baptist.ca). This form should be signed and sent by mail of PDF, along with the documentation requested on the form. Upon reception of the form, you will be advised to go on to step 3.

**STEP 4:** Meet with the local Association Ministry Committee. After this interview, the Committee will advise CBOQ on going forward.

**STEP 5:** Theological education at an ATS recognised seminary. McMaster Divinity College is CBOQ’s seminary and provides all the course-work required and suggested by our family of churches. The course-work should include a course on Baptist history and polity. During this step, students are strongly recommended to work or volunteer at a local CBOQ church.

**STEP 6:** Theological education completed.

**STEP 7:** Inform CBOQ of the change.  
CBOQ will assist in seeking pastoral placement.

**STEP 8:** Officially called as a ministry leader in a CBOQ church/ministry and recognized by the local church in a ministry position.

**STEP 9:** Inform CBOQ of change. Supervision by a mutually agreed upon CBOQ supervisor for one year.

**STEP 10:** Attend the New Pastors’ Orientation event.

**STEP 11:** Upon completion of supervision, meet with the local Association Ministry Committee. The Committee will advise CBOQ on going forward.

**STEP 12:** Meet with the Credentials Committee. Note that meeting with the Credentials Committee can only happen once all required documentation enumerated on Form 1 is received by CBOQ.

**STEP 13:** Ordination process led by local CBOQ church. *(Steps are found in the Manual)*

**STEP 14:** Full Accreditation by CBOQ at proper level. *(see FAQ at end of document)*





## Conclusion

We recognise that this system can appear complex. This is because CBOQ takes accreditation and ordination seriously. The *CBOQ Accreditation, Ordination and Induction Manual* found on [baptist.ca](http://baptist.ca) gives all the details concerning the steps to take and the documentation required. It should be consulted before you begin the process of accreditation.

Do not hesitate to contact us at CBOQ Church Life and Leadership if you have any questions or doubt as to what is needed or how to go about any of the steps. We are here to help!

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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Do I need to be ordained and accredited to perform marriages?

- Yes, you do if you minister in Ontario! While this has not always been the practice, it is a government requirement.
- In Quebec, ordination and accreditation may not be a requirement. The local Association will request a license on your behalf once a church calls you to serve them as pastor.

### What are the levels of accreditation?

- **LEVEL 1** is reserved for people who have no theological training. It cannot lead to ordination.
- **LEVEL 2** is granted to those who have a bachelor's degree in theology or biblical studies, a Leadership and Pastoral Training Programme Certificate, and satisfy the other requirements. It leads to ordination.
- **LEVEL 3** is granted to those who have a master's degree in theology, divinity or biblical studies, and satisfy the other requirements. It leads to ordination.

### How long does it take to be accredited and/or ordained?

- For those who are transferring from non-Canadian Baptist denomination, it should take up to a year or more, depending on the person.
- For those who are transferring from a Baptist World Alliance family of churches, it should take a year or less.
- For those who are not ordained or accredited but have a theological or biblical studies degree, it should take from one to two years.
- For those who sense the call to pastoral ministry and attend seminary, it should take at least four years (three years for MDiv, one-year supervision).

### What is ATS?

- It stands for the Association of Theological Schools, which accredits theological schools in Canada and the U.S.