

Who Should Be Accredited?

Purpose of Accreditation

Accreditation exists to:

- ▶ Affirm a call to ministry
- ▶ Affirm character of the individual to ministry
- ▶ Affirm the competency of the individual to ministry
- ▶ Ensure ethical accountability
- ▶ Provide denominational oversight and support
- ▶ Protect congregations, ministry leaders, and the witness of the church

Accreditation is not determined by employment status alone; however, **CBOQ strongly encourages churches to ensure that any individual employed in a pastoral role is accredited, for the protection and liability of both the church and the ministry leader.**

Pastors

All pastors serving within CBOQ churches or ministries are expected to pursue accreditation.

This includes:

- ▶ Full-time pastors
- ▶ Part-time pastors
- ▶ Interim pastors
- ▶ Co-vocational pastors
- ▶ Supply or contract pastors serving regularly

All accredited pastors are required to renew accreditation every three years, regardless of when they were first accredited.

Ordination from Other Denominations

Pastors ordained by another denomination who are serving within CBOQ contexts must contact CBOQ to determine whether their ordination may be recognized.

CBOQ will:

- ▶ Review the background and formation of the ministry leader
- ▶ Assess alignment with CBOQ theological, ethical, and pastoral standards
- ▶ Communicate clearly with the local church regarding recognition or next steps

Where ordination is not recognized, CBOQ will outline an appropriate pathway forward.

Lay Leaders Serving in Pastoral Roles

Accreditation is required for individuals who, regardless of title or compensation, **exercise pastoral authority or responsibility.**

This includes those who:

- ▶ Provide regular pastoral care
- ▶ Preach or teach with recognized pastoral authority
- ▶ Lead ministries involving spiritual oversight or formation
- ▶ Are publicly identified as a pastor or ministry leader

Examples may include:

- ▶ Children or Youth Ministry Directors
- ▶ Ministry Directors with pastoral oversight
- ▶ Regular or scheduled preachers

Discernment and Responsibility

Local churches share responsibility with CBOQ to discern when accreditation is required.

When uncertainty exists, churches are encouraged to:

- ▶ Contact CBOQ for guidance – accreditation@baptist.ca
- ▶ Err on the side of accountability and care

Serving in a pastoral capacity without appropriate accreditation may place both the individual and the church at risk and falls outside CBOQ's expectations for shared ministry life.

Ministry Leaders in CBOQ

A ministry leader is someone who serves in a recognized pastoral or spiritual care role outside the traditional congregational pastor position

Includes roles such as:

- ▶ Chaplains
- ▶ Counsellors
- ▶ Spiritual directors
- ▶ Missionaries
- ▶ Youth directors
- ▶ Children's ministry directors
- ▶ etc.

These individuals provide spiritual leadership, discipleship, and care within churches, organizations, institutions, or community-based ministries

These individuals should and can be accredited through CBOQ.



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