



# AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH

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## STEPS TOWARD MEMBERSHIP

Churches become members of the American Baptist USA Convention through their affiliation with a Regional Unit. The following is an overview of the process for churches wishing to affiliate with the American Baptist Churches of the South (ABCOTS).

### Local Churches

### ABCOTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1.</b> Local Church asks for information  | <b>1-A</b> Sends information packet to attention of pastor                        |
|  | <b>1-B</b> Sends name of area minister  |
| <b>2.</b> Pastors, church leaders read material, contact ABCOTS for additional clarification | <b>2.</b> Clarify/answer questions/concerns from Regional Office or Area Minister |
| <b>3.</b> Presentation to church in preparation for church vote                              | <b>3.</b> Any follow-up necessary from presentation                               |
| <b>4.</b> Church discussion  | <b>4.</b> Any follow-up necessary from presentation                               |
| <b>5.</b> Church VOTE  | <b>5.</b> Mail application forms to church  |
| <b>6.</b> Notification to ABCOTS office of   | <b>6.</b> Process forms   |

VOTE and formal  
request for membership

7. Complete forms, return with check for mission support to Region Office
  8. Receive letter of welcome to Region
  9. Affirmation of membership received from ABC/USA by local church
  10. Church request that pastor be included in minister and missionaries (M&M) health and retirement program
  11. Church request recognition of employed clergy (pastor and other ordained staff)
7. Letter to church with timetable for next steps