

The Call to Bivocational Ministry



Enriching the Mission of the Church

Educational Ministries
American Baptist Churches USA

Bivocational ministry. . .

a concept as old as the New Testament,
recognizes that some persons may be

called to two
vocations at

the same

time. The

apostle Paul,

called to

preach the

gospel to the Gentiles, was also a

tentmaker. There is evidence that

bivocational ministry was a common

practice in the early church. In fact, full-

time vocational ministry is a twentieth-

century development.



Explore the Call. . .

- ◆ When you believe Jesus Christ may be calling you to ministry, but you are already involved in a meaningful vocation;
- ◆ When your personal and/or family circumstances limit opportunities for training and ministry;
- ◆ If you are nearing retirement and looking for part-time ministry;
- ◆ By meeting with the diaconate of the church to discuss gifts for ministry;
- ◆ By meeting with the region committee on ministry to obtain resources.

Confirm the Call. . .

- ◆ When others recognize and affirm your gifts in ministry;
- ◆ When previous ministry experience has given you confidence to seriously explore a call;
- ◆ When the church has recognized your call to a specific ministry.

Prepare for the Call. . .

- ◆ Consider the importance of theological education for excellence in ministry;
- ◆ Choose a program that reflects the needs of all vocational ministers and the context for particular ministries;
- ◆ Consider whether seminary training is realistic in light of personal and family issues;
- ◆ Investigate non-degree programs offered by American Baptist regions and seminaries.

Settings for Service. . .

- ◆ Chaplains in colleges, hospitals, and prisons;
- ◆ Pastors of small churches;
- ◆ Specialized ministries within local churches of all sizes—Christian education, music, evangelism, new church planting, and others.

*Then I heard the
voice of the Lord
saying, "Whom shall
I send, and who will
go for us?" And I
said, "Here am I; send
me!"*

*Isaiah 6:8
NRSV*

For information on available programs,
call your American Baptist region office,
the American Baptist-related seminary
in your area, or



Educational Ministries

American Baptist Churches USA

Church Vocational Leadership

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