

2026/2027 Guidelines for Seminararians

Procedure for Seminararians Seeking Scholarship Assistance and Ordination

If you are a member of a Samuel Stillman Association church and have entered seminary, you should request that your church grant a pre-ordination license. **This should be requested while a first-year seminarian.**

Upon receiving a pre-ordination license, contact the Samuel Stillman Association Chairperson of the Committee on Ordained Ministry, Rev. Jason Rutherford, to schedule an initial interview with a representative of the committee. You will receive a package outlining our denominational and association requirements and processes for ordination which will enable you to fulfill the requirements concurrently with your seminary training.

The churches of the Samuel Stillman Association want to support your professional pursuit of serving our Lord. The Association will pay up to \$350 on the required standard pre-ordination evaluation of the Center for Career Development and Ministry. It is our hope that you and your supporting church will each pay the balance. You may also substitute a CPE evaluation for this requirement. (Information may be obtained at the initial interview.)

If you choose to go through the Center and want to receive the grant from Samuel Stillman, you must (1) be a member of a Samuel Stillman church, (2) have a pre-ordination license, and (3) have met with the Samuel Stillman Association Committee on Ordained Ministry for the initial interview. When you begin to make plans to go to the Center, contact the clerk of the association prior to your evaluation so that our Executive Committee may release the funds and notify the Center of our intent to do so. We need prior notice to assure funding availability.

If you have additional questions, contact the Samuel Stillman Association's chairperson of the Committee on Ordained Ministry, Rev. Jason Rutherford, at **TELEPHONE NUMBER** or via email at **EMAIL ADDRESS** or the clerk, Kathie Zeman, at **TELEPHONE NUMBER**, or via email at **EMAIL ADDRESS**.

Note to Pastor: If you have a seminarian in your church...

- 1. Read this entire handout**
- 2. Pass it on to your seminarian**
- 3. Remember: It is only your church's granting of the pre-ordination license that initiates the process for ordination. Please make sure your seminarian has a pre-ordination license and all the appropriate committees are notified.**

Application for Scholarship

Samuel Stillman Association of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts

Name

Local Address

Year of Study

Program Enrolled

Full-time Student: Yes_____ No_____

If part-time, indicate the percentage of time as compared to a full-time student at your seminary:
_____%

Date_____ and place_____ pre-ordination license was issued.

Are you called to the Parish Ministry? Yes_____ No_____

If yes, indicate your goal for your first assignment after graduation and ordination:

Name, address, and denominational affiliation of church of which you are a member:

Note: Many churches are affiliated with more than one convention. (Indicate all affiliations.)

Name and address of the Samuel Stillman Association church where you are attending and in which you are assisting:

Position or duties that you are assisting with:

Pastor's name and address of the Samuel Stillman Association church:

Please send a one-page letter of recommendation signed by the pastor to the clerk of the association.