



American Baptist Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, Spiritual Directors, and Specialized Ministry Merit Awards Nomination Form

Criteria for Awards

Criteria for the Carolyn M. Piper Pastoral Counseling Merit Award

Eligibility: Pastoral counselors affiliated with the American Baptist family of ministries.

Evaluation Areas:

- Demonstrated excellence in pastoral counseling rooted in Christian faith.
- Evidence of compassionate care that brings healing, growth, and reconciliation.
- Commitment to professional ethics and pastoral presence.

Distinguishing Marks: A consistent record of faithful service that transforms lives through pastoral counseling.

- Must be a licensed professional with an LPC, LMFT, LCADAC, LCSW or other recognized state-licensed professionals

Criteria for the Lorraine K. Potter Military Chaplaincy Merit Award

Eligibility: Active-duty, reserve, retired, or veteran military chaplains endorsed by American Baptists.

Evaluation Areas:

- Distinguished service in pastoral and spiritual care to military personnel and families.
- Demonstrated resilience, leadership, and witness in challenging contexts.
- Contributions to strengthening the spiritual life of military communities.

Distinguishing Marks: Faithful pastoral presence in the unique environment of military service.

Criteria for the Paul W. Strickland Institutional Chaplaincy Merit Award

Eligibility: Chaplains serving in hospitals, correctional facilities, educational institutions, or similar settings.

Evaluation Areas:

- Effective ministry of presence, spiritual care, and advocacy within institutional systems.
- Evidence of building bridges across diverse communities.
- Commitment to justice, healing, and hope in the lives of individuals and institutions.

Distinguishing Marks: Transformative pastoral care within an institutional setting.

Criteria for the American Baptist National Network Merit Award

Eligibility: Members of the American Baptist National Network of Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, and Specialized Ministers.

Evaluation Areas:

- Distinguished service in a specialized ministry setting.
- Commitment to equipping, mentoring, and empowering others for excellence.
- Evidence of creative and effective approaches to spiritual leadership.

Distinguishing Marks: Faithful and innovative contributions to specialized ministries that strengthen the wider church and community.

Criteria for the John J. “Jack” Gleason Ecclesiastical Endorser Award

Eligibility: Current or former American Baptist ecclesiastical endorsers, denominational leaders, or advocates for chaplaincy.

Evaluation Areas:

- Outstanding leadership in ecclesiastical endorsement.
- Advocacy for the role of chaplains, pastoral counselors, and specialized ministers.
- Sustained commitment to pastoral excellence in the larger church and public sphere.

Distinguishing Marks: Visionary leadership that strengthens the ministry and witness of chaplains and specialized ministers.

Nomination Guidelines

The Carolyn M. Piper Pastoral Counseling Merit Award

- Nominees must be endorsed or recognized pastoral counselors within the American Baptist tradition.
- Minimum of **10 years of service** in pastoral counseling.
- Nomination must include examples of faithful, ethical, and effective counseling ministry.
- Statement of support should highlight impact on individuals, congregations, or communities.

The Lorraine K. Potter Military Chaplaincy Merit Award

- Nominees may be active duty, reserve, retired, or veteran military chaplains endorsed by American Baptists.
- Minimum of **8 years of chaplaincy service** (combined active and reserve duty).
- Nomination should demonstrate faithful pastoral and spiritual care in the military context.
- Supporting materials may include commendations, peer testimonies, or evidence of community impact.

The Paul W. Strickland Institutional Chaplaincy Merit Award

- Nominees must serve, or have served, as chaplains in institutional settings (e.g., hospitals, prisons, colleges).
- Minimum of **7 years of institutional chaplaincy service**.
- Nomination must reflect excellence in pastoral presence, advocacy, and spiritual leadership.
- Statement of recommendation should describe impact within the institution and broader community.

The American Baptist National Network of Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, and Specialized Ministers Merit Award

- Nominees must be active members of the National Network.
- Minimum of **3 years of service** in a specialized ministry.
- Nomination should highlight innovation, empowerment of others, and faithfulness in ministry.
- Statement recommendations may include ministry achievements, mentoring examples, or program leadership.

The John J. “Jack” Gleason Ecclesiastical Endorser Award

- Nominees must be current or former supporters of ecclesiastical endorsers, denominational leaders, or recognized advocates for chaplaincy.
- Minimum of **10 years of service** in endorsement, leadership, or advocacy for chaplaincy and specialized ministry.
- Nomination should emphasize leadership, advocacy, and vision in support of chaplains and pastoral counselors.
- Endorsements from colleagues or institutions may strengthen the nomination.