

## ***Baptist History, Polity and Principles***

**Saturdays, February 22, March 8 & 22, 2025**

**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (EST)**

This class will be offered virtually by Zoom sessions and requires on-camera class participation and assigned readings between classes. It fulfills the Baptist History and Polity requirement for the Region ordination process. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available upon request for this course. Lay persons and church staff members are encouraged to take this class.

The class will introduce participants to the general history and growth of Baptists in Europe and America and the specific development of Baptist life in Indiana and Kentucky. It will examine the eight “classic” Baptist principles (e. g. believer’s baptism, biblical authority, local church autonomy) and connect them to the life of the local church. In addition, the polity and organization of American Baptist Churches USA and American Baptist Churches of Indiana & Kentucky will be examined.

The Instructor will be the Rev. Dr. Darrell James, who has over 30 years of experience in ABC life including serving as Pastor of three ABC-IN/KY congregations and as a member of Regional and National Boards and Committees. He is currently the Pastor of Mill Creek Baptist Church in Salem, Indiana.

**The cost of this class will be \$25.00.** Students will be given a free copy of I. George Blake, Finding a Way through the Wilderness: Tracing Baptist History in Indiana. **Students will acquire (either borrow or purchase at their own expense):** Bill Leonard, Baptist Ways: A History, George Tooze, Baptist Principles with Practical Applications and Questions for Discussion, and Norman Maring and Winthrop Hudson, A Baptist Manual of Polity and Practice, “Second Revised Edition” (2012), edited by David Gregg.

*If you have any specific questions about course requirements or content before the class begins, you are welcome to call the ABC-IN/KY Region Office (317.635.3552, press 3) to request instructor Darrell James’ contact info.*