

Policy Regarding Ministerial Ethics Training, Healthy Boundaries Required to Maintain Ministerial Standing

This policy establishes the requirement for all clergy seeking “active clergy standing” in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma to complete a Healthy Boundaries seminar or its equivalent every three years (as described below). This training is encouraged for all congregational employees. Non-active retired ministers are not subject to this requirement.

The purpose of this requirement is to equip clergy and staff to understand the importance of healthy boundaries in ministry and to critically discern the complexities of boundaries in pastoral relationships.

Within the 16 competencies for ministry listed in the “Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), this training specifically fits within the competencies of Ethics and Pastoral Care (Self-Care).

Requirement:

1. Take the “Healthy Boundaries Seminar 101”, offered by the Oklahoma Region, or its equivalent (see below) beginning as outlined in the Note below.

Note: In order to gradually implement this policy, the following schedule is adopted:

Year One: clergy and staff in the Northeast and Southeast areas train. July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Year Two: clergy and staff in the Northwest and Southwest areas train. July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Year Three: clergy and staff in the Central area train. July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

2. Take/retake the “Healthy Boundaries: Beyond Basics” Seminar 201, offered by the Oklahoma Region, or its equivalent (see below) within

40 months (3 1/2 years) of taking Seminar 101 and thereafter every three years.

3. Report the title and date of your latest “Healthy Boundaries” training, or its equivalent (see below) each year on the Application for Ministerial Standing Form. The date of your latest training must be within 40 months (3 1/2 years) of the date of your application for standing except under the special circumstances outlined below.

4. Special Circumstances

a. Ministers moving into the Region of Oklahoma from other Regions will enter the three year rotation of courses by either

- a. Indicating on their Application for Standing Form that they have completed similar training within the past 2 years, or,
- b. Enrolling in and completing the Healthy Boundaries 101 seminar offered by the Region of Oklahoma within 12 months of becoming a minister in the Region of Oklahoma.

b. Ministers entering the the Christian Church (DOC) from another denomination will enter the three year rotation of courses by either:

- a. Providing evidence of having taken equivalent training within the past 2 years (see below) or,
- b. Enrolling in and completing the Healthy Boundaries 101 seminar offered by the Region of Oklahoma as a part of the requirement for initially being granted standing in the Oklahoma Region.

Equivalent Training:

Recognition of equivalent training is not automatic. To request recognition of equivalent training submit the following information directed to the Commission on Clergy, along with your Application for Ministerial Standing Form.

1. Title of the Course
2. Sponsoring Organization
3. Date Completed
4. A brief description of the Course

The request will be assessed and you will be notified by the reception of your standing card if your request is approved. You will be contacted by mail or e-mail if your request is denied.

Trainers

The Commission on Clergy will recruit, train and support a minimum of eight Healthy Boundaries trainers for the purpose of leading Healthy Boundaries seminars. (See Job Description attached)

(Policy approved 03/09/2015)