

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

Updated 03/11/2024 – Effective 1/1/2025

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 five 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. Effective January 1, 2025, clergy will complete a Healthy Boundaries training every five years to meet Standing requirements. This policy will be retroactive to the last Healthy Boundaries training in which an individual participated.

2. 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.

3. Special Circumstances

- a. Ministers moving into the Region of Oklahoma from other Regions will enter the five-year rotation of courses by either
 - a. Indicating on their Application for Standing Form that they have completed similar training within the past 5 years or,
 - b. Enrolling in and completing a Healthy Boundaries seminar offered by the Region of Oklahoma within 12 months of becoming a minister in the Region of Oklahoma.

- b. Ministers entering the Christian Church (DOC) from another denomination will enter the five-year rotation of courses by either:
 - a. Providing evidence of having taken equivalent training within the past 5 years (see below) or,

- b. Enrolling in and completing a Healthy Boundaries 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)

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