

***Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest***  
**Procedures for the Reinstatement of Standing**  
**Following Removal Due to Misconduct OR Relinquishment of Standing**

Proceedings to reinstate standing for ordained clergy in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest are initiated at the discretion of the Regional Committee on Ministry (RCoM), which has the sole authority to grant or deny standing, in obedience to Christ's calling and on behalf of the whole Church.

The Regional Committee on Ministry recognizes these basic assumptions: 1) God's grace is generous. 2) Disciplined responsibility to the ministry of the Body of Christ expresses mutual accountability within the fellowship of the universal church. 3) Some abuses and illnesses cannot be "cured" and could bring potential harm or danger to a congregation and/or to a pastor suffering with such. 4) Repeated reopening of details of events surrounding misconduct can be painful for both victims and congregations who have experienced it.

**Reinstatement following removal of standing due to misconduct**

The Regional Committee on Ministry requires those seeking reinstatement following removal of standing due to Misconduct OR relinquishment of standing to make application to the Regional Committee on Ministry through the RCoM Misconduct Committee. The Misconduct Committee may thus receive the request and all accompanying papers from the candidate seeking reinstatement, from the Regional/Area Minister, or from the candidate's Area Committee on Ministry.

The Misconduct Committee may recommend against consideration of the applicant's request or may recommend that the Regional Committee on Ministry conduct a hearing to consider a request for reinstatement upon receipt and judicious consideration of requirements #1-8 listed below:

1. A newly completed "Personal Data" form that marks the box "seeking reinstatement of standing" and indicates whether standing was lost "unrelated to Sexual Misconduct" or "as a result of sexual misconduct."
2. A "CCSW Personal Disclosure Form" with an accompanying letter that describes the facts and circumstances of the termination, suspension, resignation, or voluntary relinquishment of standing.
3. A completed "Ministry Profile" along with new letters of reference and background check. (There is a cost for this background check.)
4. A letter from the sponsoring congregation requesting reinstatement of standing
5. Evidence of having completed a recent regionally-approved sexual misconduct prevention policy workshop.

All of these documents will be considered by the RCoM Misconduct Committee. After the Misconduct Committee's review, the RCoM will require:

6. A professional psychological evaluation for which the evaluator is pre-approved by the RCoM and with the expenses paid by the individual. Applicants are cautioned not to begin this evaluation without RCoM instruction.

**Reinstatement following a loss of standing for reasons other than misconduct**

The Regional Committee on Ministry requires those seeking reinstatement following a loss of standing for any reason other than misconduct to make application to the Regional Committee on Ministry by initiating a face-to-face meeting with the Area Minister. The Area Minister will provide forms for completion to be returned to the Area Minister. The Area Minister will submit all of your completed papers to the Regional Office.

1. A newly completed "Personal Data" form that marks the box "seeking reinstatement of standing" and indicates whether standing was lost "unrelated to Sexual Misconduct."
2. An "Introductory Memo from the Area Minister" that explains the circumstances of the request that indicate the process be initiated
3. A "CCSW Personal Disclosure Form" with an accompanying letter that describes the facts and circumstances of the termination, suspension, resignation, or voluntary relinquishment of standing.
4. A completed "Ministry Profile" along with new letters of reference and background check. (There is a cost to the minister for this background check.)
5. A letter from the sponsoring congregation requesting reinstatement of standing
6. Evidence of having completed a recent regionally-approved sexual misconduct prevention policy workshop.

All of these documents will be considered by the Regional Committee on Ministry. After RCoM's review, the candidate may be required to seek:

7. A professional psychological evaluation for which the evaluator is pre-approved by the RCoM and with the expenses paid by the individual. Please do not pursue this step unless RCoM specifically instructs you to do so.

Adopted by CCSW Regional Committee on Ministry  
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