



Minister Transferring Regions Procedure

Title: Minister Transferring Regions

Purpose: According to the Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), “Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is credentialing for ministry within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a call to accountability to the church, and collegiality with other ministers both denominationally and ecumenically” (II.F.1). Furthermore, it states, “Responsibility for certification of Standing of minister and for annual review of that Standing within the Order of Ministry is lodged with the Region where the minister is currently engaged in the practice of ministry” (II.F.1.c). With this understanding, here are some suggestions for ministers who move from one region to another in ministry roles where the region holds the minister’s standing (this does not apply to ministers whose standing is held by GCOM).

Definitions: **Sending Region--** the region where the minister is leaving. The region who currently holds the minister’s standing.

Receiving Region-- the region where the minister is going. The region who needs to hold the minister’s standing.

Process:

1. The minister should accept responsibility for ensuring that their standing resides where they do ministry. Ministers should not assume that regions have an automatic system for notifying one another of inter-regional transfers.
2. The minister should make sure the receiving region knows they are newly and officially in the region, find out what is required of them to get standing transferred to their new region, and accomplish such requirements. In most cases, the minister should contact the sending region requesting that standing verification be sent to their receiving region.
3. The minister should make sure the region follows through with reporting such new standing in the region by contacting Brenda Tyler at bt Tyler@dhm.disciples.org four to six weeks after requesting the prior region to send verification of standing to the new region and completing the new region’s standing requirements.

NOTE: It is often the case that many clergy are in a position for quite some time without having standing transferred to their new region. The minister can be proactive by following the steps above because, if the sending region drops standing for the reason of “Minister no longer in region,” they function without standing in the new region.