



Temporary Administrative Removal of Standing Policy

Title: Temporary Administrative Removal of Standing Policy

Purpose: Process clarification to define the conditions under which a minister's standing may be temporarily removed and clarification and authorization for how to reinstate standing when it has been removed for temporary and/or clerical reasons.

Definitions: **Standing**-- In terms of the Office of Christian Vocations including Search and Call, a minister either has or does not have standing. However, the General Office of Christian Vocations does require a reason whenever a minister's standing is removed.

Removal of Standing for Cause-- Removal of standing for Cause (disciplinary) creates a permanent flag and must be disclosed on a minister's ministerial profile.

Temporary Administrative Removal of Standing--Temporary Clerical Removal of Standing would occur when a minister does any one of the following: (1) Fails to complete required paperwork; (2) Fails to complete boundaries training on the appropriate timetable; (3) Fails to submit authorization for criminal background check. Return to standing can be remedied by completing missing items and would not require disclosure once reinstated.

Details:

1. For ordained ministers to have standing in the Christian Church in the Southwest, they must:
 - a. Annually submit a Standing Renewal Form.
 - b. Complete regionally approved boundaries training every five years.
 - c. Submit authorization to perform criminal background checks every five years in conjunction with boundaries training.
2. For a commissioned minister to have standing in the Christian Church in the Southwest, they must:
 - a. Annually meet with a Commissioning Committee on Ministry for accountability and relationship.
 - b. Participate in ministry training education (varies depending on certification track).
 - c. Annually submit necessary paperwork including request for renewal, congregational endorsement and disclosures.
 - d. Submit authorization to perform criminal background checks every five years in conjunction with boundaries training.



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

in the Southwest

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- Details:**
3. When the action is taken to temporarily remove standing, the Regional Minister or Regional Executive shall send a letter indicating that standing has been removed, citing reason(s) for the removal of standing, and clarify how the minister can have standing reinstated.
 4. Once deficiencies are completed and documented evidence of correction is received, the Regional staff will take steps to renew the standing, update General Church records, and provide timely documentation to the minister.
 5. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** this removal of standing does not create the distinction as removal of standing for cause nor is it an official censure. Once the items are corrected, standing will be returned and the minister will not need to make notification of these actions on a disclosure form.
- Applicability:** This policy pertains to ministers with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest
- Authority:** Regional Committee on Ministry
- Implementation:** September 30, 2019
- Relevant Policies or Documents**
- Approval and Revision History:** Approved at the September 2019 RCOM Meeting
- Author(s):** Andy Mangum, Regional Minister; Christy Drechsel, Regional Executive