No. 9528

(Operational Business Item)

AMENDMENT OF THE POLICIES AND CRITERIA FOR THE ORDER OF MINISTRY FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (SECTION RELATED TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT)

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

V. E. Sexual Misconduct. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) understands ministerial sexual misconduct to be activity of a sexual nature which violates the covenantal character of the ministerial office as expressed in the Ministerial Code of Ethics.

1. Responsibilities.
   
   a. It is the responsibility of each region to have specific definitions of sexual misconduct and procedures for receiving, investigating and adjudicating sexual misconduct charges of ministers with standing in the region. It is the responsibility of the region to communicate such definitions and procedures to ministers and congregations within the region.

   b. It is the responsibility of the General Board to have specific definitions of sexual misconduct and procedures for receiving, investigating and adjudicating sexual misconduct charges of ministers engaged in on-regional ministries. It is the responsibility of the General Commission on the Ministry to communicate such definitions and procedures to ministers, units, and other organizations in the general church.

2. Reporting.

   Regions will report formal actions and decisions to remove standing for sexual misconduct to Center for Leadership & Ministry, Division of Homeland Ministries and these will be communicated to all regions.

3. Temporary Suspension of Standing.

   In extreme situations of alleged sexual misconduct, ministerial standing may be temporarily suspended by the region or the General Commission on Ministry during investigation and adjudication.