

NEBRASKA CONFERENCE Administrative Enablement

20. ADMINISTRATIVE ENABLEMENT

2014 Proposed Ministry Outreach from Nebraska

Nebraska Conference Advances

Paragraph 656.4 of the 2012 Book of Discipline provides for approved district programs to be designated as Conference Advances.

"With the approval of the Annual Conference, a district within the Conference may authorize and promote Advance Specials for church extension and missionary needs within the district, such funds to be administered by a district missionary society organized for that purpose or by a similar body set up by the district. Such special funds secured and administered on a district level shall be reported by each local church to the Annual Conference as Conference Advance Specials." The following programs have been approved in this process.

District Programs

- 850 Sacred Winds Native Mission Congregation
- 855 Elkhorn Valley District Church and Community Ministry
- 876 Great West District Hispanic/Latino Ministries
- 885 Blue River District Hispanic/Latino Ministries
- 886 Prairie Rivers District Hispanic/Latino Ministries
- 887 Conference Owned Camping Ministries-NUMC Inc.
- 888 Camp Comeca - Cozad
- 889 Camp Fontanelle - Nickerson
- 890 Camp Norwesca - Chadron
- 891 Living Hope United Methodist Church (Omaha)
- 894 New Visions Community UMC, Southwest Lincoln

Other Ministries

- 851 Nigeria/Nebraska Partnership: Hope for Children of Africa
- 858 Nigeria/Nebraska Scholarships for Students (new addition)
- 860 Released and Restored
- 880 Habitat For Humanity (Specify Beatrice, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, or Sarpy County)
- 861 Church & Community Worker-Randy Hildebrant (Elkhorn Valley District)
- 862 Church & Community Worker-Lisa Maupin (Missouri River District)
- 863 Church & Community Worker-Deb Keeney (Missouri River District)
- 865 Native American Ministries
- 866 Hispanic/Latino Ministries
- 867 Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska
- 870 Peace with Justice Ministry
- 871 Hunger
- 872 Rural Response Hotline (Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska)
- 875 Volunteers in Mission
- 893 Nebraska Campus Ministry (local units)
- 895 Justice for Our Neighbors-Nebraska

Institutional Ministries

- 852 Nebraska Wesleyan University
- 877 Lydia Patterson Institute
- 878 Crowell Health Services - Blair
- 879 Danner Memorial Scholarship
- 881 Epworth Village - York
- 882 Crossroads Center of Hastings
- 899 Fairfield Orphanage Student Association (FOSA)

General Advances with Nebraska Emphasis

- 578 United Methodist Global AIDS (982345)
- 588 Panama/Nebraska Partnership (00441A)
- 676 Omaha Big Garden Project (3621107)

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NEBRASKA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN Robin R. Kilgore January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

	2012	2011	Increase/ Decrease	Change
1 Total professing members start of the year	76,325	76,968	(643)	-0.84%
2a Received by profession of faith	1,532	1,599	(67)	-4.37%
2b Restored by affirmation	269	219	50	18.59%
2c Correct previous year's reporting errors by addition	788	1,108	(320)	-40.61%
3 Transferred in from other UM churches	951	734	217	22.82%
4 Transferred in from other denominations	307	354	(47)	-15.31%
5a Removed by charge conference action	818	1,160	(342)	-41.81%
5b Withdrawn	948	941	7	0.74%
5c Correct previous year's reporting errors by subtraction	1,018	321	697	68.47%
6 Removed by transfer to other UM churches	1,414	610	804	56.86%
7 Removed by transfer to other denominations	233	278	(45)	-19.31%
8 Removed by death	1,326	1,315	11	0.83%
9 Total professing members end of the year	74,415	76,325	(1,910)	-2.57%
10 Average attendance at worship services	30,586	30,012	584	1.91%
11 Number of baptisms	1,334	1,282	52	3.90%
12 Number of baptized but not yet professing members	12,697	12,154	543	4.28%
13 Number of constituents	16,216	18,266	(2,050)	-12.64%
14 Number enrolled in confirmation classes	1,072	1,144	(72)	-6.72%
19 Total number participating in Christian formation groups	29,516	28,694	822	2.78%
20 Average attendance in Sunday Church School	8,557	8,864	(307)	-3.59%
21 Number of persons in covenant discipleship groups	3,147	3,159	(12)	-0.38%
22 Number of participants in Vacation Bible School	12,817	13,201	(384)	-3.00%
23 Number of ongoing classes in Sunday Church School	1,247	1,250	(3)	-0.24%
26 Membership in United Methodist Men	1,200	1,344	(144)	-12.00%
28 Membership in United Methodist Women	8,788	9,265	(477)	-5.43%
31.a Number of mission teams sent from this local church	300	276	24	8.00%
33.a Number of ministries for outreach, justice and mercy	1,245	1,002	243	19.52%
34a Value of land, church buildings & equipment	546,943,897	532,059,731	14,884,166	2.72%
35a Value of church-owned other assets	53,728,812	53,113,812	615,000	1.14%
36a Debt secured by church assets	20,490,562	19,861,335	629,227	3.07%
37a Other debt	336,059	173,290	162,769	48.43%
38, 40, 42, 44, 46 Total mission shares apportioned	7,401,138	7,216,323	184,815	2.50%
39, 41, 43, 45, 47 Total mission shares paid	6,419,205	6,161,230	257,975	4.02%
48 Percent of mission shares paid	86.73	85.38	1.35	1.56%
49c General Advance Specials paid	271,704	357,100	(85,396)	-31.43%
51a Special Sunday Offerings paid	129,023	122,875	6,148	4.77%
52a Conference Advance Specials paid	111,605	109,790	1,815	1.63%
53c Given directly to UM causes, including district askings	521,242	409,575	111,667	21.42%
54a Given to non UM benevolent and charitable causes	845,595	832,807	12,788	1.51%
64a Paid on indebtedness	3,296,370	3,418,828	(122,458)	-3.71%
65a Paid on buildings and capital improvements	9,836,068	5,223,603	4,612,465	45.79%
66 Number of households giving to the local church	32,575	35,540	(2,965)	-9.10%
67 Total income for annual budget/spending plan	45,344,831	43,268,666	2,075,965	4.56%
67a Amount received through pledges	18,595,293	18,551,572	43,721	0.24%
67b Amount received from non-pledging identified givers	21,826,243	20,112,781	1,813,462	8.27%
67c Amount received from Unidentified givers	1,459,374	1,345,143	114,231	7.83%
67d Amount received from interest and dividends	476,856	305,015	171,841	36.04%
67e Amount received from sale of church assets	184,765	363,808	(179,043)	-96.90%
67f Amount received from building use fees/rentals	956,782	960,346	(3,564)	-0.37%
67g Amount received through fundraisers and other sources	1,745,318	1,630,001	115,317	6.61%

Note: Line 67 will be used for mission share (apportionment) calculation in the Great Plains Conference.

**NEBRASKA CONFERENCE
Administrative Enablement**

**NEBRASKA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
POLICY STATEMENT OF MISCONDUCT OF A
SEXUAL NATURE**

The Nebraska Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church affirms the 2012 Book of Resolutions, "Sexual Misconduct within Ministerial Relationships" p. 134. Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship and sexual harassment within the church are incompatible with biblical teachings of hospitality, justice and healing. In accordance with the 2012 Book of Discipline, ¶161.F., and the promises of Galatians 3:26-29, we support equity among all persons without regard to ethnicity, situation, or gender.

Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship involves a betrayal of sacred trust, a violation of the ministerial role and exploitation of those who are vulnerable. Sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue. These are chargeable offenses under 2012 Book of Discipline ¶2702, (g) (h) (i) (j).

Similarly "the destructive power of pornography lies in its ability to ensure that attitudes toward sexuality will continue to be influenced by images that negate human dignity, equality and mutuality. Pornography contributes to alienation in human relationships and distorts the sexual integrity of both women and men" (2008 Book of Resolutions, page 154).

Definitions

The continuum of behaviors called sexual misconduct within the ministerial relationship represents an exploitation of power and not merely "inappropriate sexual or gender-directed conduct." Sexual misconduct in any form is unacceptable in church and ministry settings whether it is clergy-to-lay, lay-to-clergy, clergy-to-clergy, lay-to-lay, staff-to-staff, staff-to-volunteer, volunteer-to-volunteer, or volunteer-to-staff. Anyone who works or volunteers under the authority or auspices of the Church must be held to the highest standards of behavior, free of sexual misconduct in any form. (2008 Book of Resolutions p 135.)

Ministerial relationship and ministerial role, for the purpose of this policy refers to: clergy as defined in 2012 Book of Discipline ¶369.1.

Sexual abuse within the church occurs when a person in a ministerial role as identified in the 2012 Book of Discipline ¶ 2702 engages in sexual contact or sexualized behavior with a congregant, client, employee, staff member, co-worker or volunteer (with the exception of the clergy's spouse).

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance or demand, either verbal or physical, that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating, or coercive. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender (2012 Book of Discipline ¶161 (i).

The Nebraska Conference is also concerned with the sexual and gender harassment of clergy by laity. The conference is defining a policy according to the 2012 Book of Discipline paragraph 605.9. The policy will define how to report such incidents, how to care for the accused and accuser. It will make provision for the support of the pastor and for the care of the church members.

The use of pornography is defined as the intentional, repeated use of church property, church resources or clergy time in the use, production, or viewing of pornographic materials. Pornographic material is defined as any sexually explicit material that is used for the purpose of sexual arousal, especially when it portrays violence, abuse, coercion, domination, humiliation or degradation. In addition, any sexually explicit material that depicts children (real, animated or enhanced) is pornographic. (2008 Book of Resolutions, page 154. 2012 Book of Discipline, ¶161.F)

Stance

Misconduct of a sexual nature within the life of the Church betrays its moral mission. The Nebraska Annual Conference stands in opposition to the sin of misconduct of a sexual nature and commits itself to fair and expedient investigation of any charge of sexual misconduct within the church and to take action deemed appropriate and in compliance with the 2012 Book of Discipline. Further, the Nebraska Annual Conference bears affirmative responsibility to create an environment of hospitality for all persons, which is free of misconduct of a sexual nature and encourages respect, equality and kinship in Christ. Our past experience leads us to believe that the next generation of training needs to use new methods and styles of learning, focus on health in ministry, and encourage the Education and Nurture Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry to explore strategies of prevention through peer accountability and healthy ministry support groups.

Misconduct of a sexual nature should be reported according to the Nebraska Conference procedures. Local churches are advised to develop policies consistent with the Conference Policy and the 2012 Book of Discipline.

NEBRASKA CONFERENCE Administrative Enablement

Procedure Before a Complaint is Written and Signed

Truth telling when reporting is essential. Anyone with knowledge of misconduct of a sexual nature by a person in a ministerial role is encouraged to report this information to one of the advocates, a member of the Conference Clergy Boundaries Committee, Ethics Committee or a District Superintendent. "Anyone" includes victims, families of victims, families of perpetrators, clergy colleagues, afterpastors, persons in congregations and ministry settings.

Supporting resources are available to provide care for a complainant, consultation about the reporting procedures, and assistance in the decision-making process to the end that victims are heard and enabled to speak for themselves. These resources include:

- direct access to independent advocates
- services through the Conference Clergy Boundaries Committee
 - > consultation with the Committee
 - > professional consultants
 - > counseling

If information is received prior to a written grievance about a possible instance of misconduct of a sexual nature by a person in a ministerial role, the receiver should:

- listen to the information without passing judgment
- encourage written documentation
- help the complainant contact one of the above listed resources or a District Superintendent
- observe confidentiality with the information

Clergy are generally charged to maintain confidentiality according to 2012 Book of Discipline ¶341.5. The Nebraska Conference Policy Statement for the Protection of Children, Youth, and Developmentally Disabled Adult Dependent Persons describes circumstances in which reporting is required by law.

Procedure After a Complaint is Written and Signed

Once a written and signed complaint has been filed with the Bishop or a District Superintendent, a Supervisory Process begins according to 2012 Book of Discipline ¶362-363. This may result in a judicial referral based on chargeable offenses, an administrative referral to the Board of Ordained Ministry, or a referral to a mediation process.