

RESOLUTION: TRAINING FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN CHURCHES

1 WHEREAS, ministry comprises a sacred trust between clergy and parishioners, which is grounded in
2 scripture, Paul stated that those who serve in pastoral leadership, “Must be hospitable, a lover
3 of goodness, prudent, upright, devout and self controlled,” (Titus 1:8) and also stated, “You
4 are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you
5 believers . . .” (Thessalonians 2:10); and
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7 WHEREAS, ministerial sexual misconduct can be defined as any “sexualized behavior” within a
8 “ministerial relationship” and violation of said trust; and
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10 WHEREAS, the leadership and care of a congregation is inconsistent with the abuse of pastoral power
11 in sexual misconduct with parishioners, as is clearly stated by the Ordained Minister’s Code:
12 “I will not use my position, power, or authority to exploit any person”; and
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14 WHEREAS, many of the churches of the Connecticut Conference have endured the consequences and
15 experienced suffering and confusion caused by sexual misconduct by a clergy person; and
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17 WHEREAS, the 127th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ
18 passed a resolution entitled and calling for “Training Those in Authorized Ministries in the
19 Nature and Consequences of Clergy Sexual Misconduct” and yet only about 100 of our 683
20 ordained ministers have participated in such training during the past five years.
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22 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 133rd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut
23 Conference of the United Church of Christ urge the Associations of the Conference and their
24 Committees on Ministry to adopt a policy requiring all Authorized Ministers (Ordained,
25 Licensed and Commissioned) to participate in, at minimum, a one-day workshop on sexual
26 misconduct prevention within three years of adoption of the policy or within three years of
27 being granted standing by the Association, and repeat training within each subsequent seven
28 year period; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Associations of the Conference and their Committees on
31 Ministry to adopt a policy within two years of the adoption of this resolution requiring all
32 persons in-care of Associations to participate in, at a minimum, a one-day workshop on
33 sexual misconduct prevention prior to being recommended to an Ecclesiastical Council for
34 Ordination; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Connecticut Conference Office for Program and
37 Resources to offer one-day workshops on sexual misconduct prevention for persons in-care
38 and Authorized Ministers at least twice during each calendar year; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Connecticut Conference Office for Program and
41 Resources, working with Regional Ministers, Regional Ministry Teams and local churches to
42 further develop and make more available comprehensive and appropriate educational
43 opportunities for Christian Educators, Youth Leaders, Sunday School Teachers and other Lay
44 Leaders to learn about the nature and consequences of Sexual Misconduct; and
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46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference Committee on Ministry present and interpret
47 this resolution to all fifteen Associations of the Connecticut Conference and all Executive
48 Committees of the Associations of the Connecticut Conference within one year of the
49 adoption of this resolution.