

CONFERENCE ACCOUNTABILITY DISCERNMENT POLICY



Accountability to the faith community is a necessary aspect of faithful living as followers of Christ. In the event that a member congregation acts in ways divergent with the mission or vision of the Conference, this process is used for discernment with the goal of maintaining unity within the Conference. This process reflects a respect for the priesthood of all believers and the agency of each member congregation through the Delegate Assembly, and respects mutual congregational and Conference discernment.

STEP 1. BEGIN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS

Leadership Ministers will work proactively with all Conference member congregations. Ideally, issues of congregational divergence from the mission or vision of the Conference will be worked at with the Leadership Minister before this formal process is initiated.

STEP 2. CONFER, INFORM, REPORT

If the issue is not resolved in Step 1, the Leadership Minister will confer with the credentialed leader and/or congregational leadership of the congregation and inform the Executive Minister and Conference Board Chair. The Leadership Minister will then submit a written report to the Conference Board.

STEP 3. APPOINT A REVIEW COMMITTEE

When the Conference Board receives a written report of congregational divergence from the mission or vision of the Conference, the Conference Board will appoint a review committee of representatives of the Conference Board plus that congregation's Leadership Minister to conduct an interview with the credentialed leader and/or congregational leadership.

STEP 4. LISTEN TO THE CONGREGATION

The review committee will listen to the credentialed leader and/or congregational leadership to establish clarity and content of the report, to understand the congregation's intentions, and to hear how the congregation is processing its actions. Future intentions should also be reviewed. It is important to gather all pertinent information that will assist the Conference Board in their discernment process.

STEP 5. SUBMIT WRITTEN REPORT TO CONFERENCE BOARD

The review committee will give a full report of the conversations to the Conference Board, along with their counsel and recommendations.

STEP 6. CONFERENCE BOARD DISCERNMENT

The Conference Board, through further prayer and discernment, may decide no additional action is needed, and in so doing, acknowledge that the Conference is a living body. Or, the Conference Board, through further prayer and discernment, may choose to put the question of removal of the congregation from the Conference to the Delegate Assembly at the next Annual Assembly.

STEP 7. REMOVAL OF A MEMBER CONGREGATION

A member congregation can only be removed from the Conference with a two-thirds majority vote of the Delegate Assembly.