

2044 Sexual Misconduct Within Ministerial Relationship (BOR 2012, pp. 134-137)

- Sacred Trust, Power, and Responsibility
- Definitions: Sexual misconduct, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Abuse, Sexualized Behavior
- Ministerial Role of Leadership

Administrative Fair Process (BOD 2012, pp.304-309)

- Judicial complaints: complaints which are chargeable offenses (BOD 2012, ¶2702.1)
- Complaints must be written, signed statement
- Upon receipt of complaint, Bishop shall notify chairperson of the BOOM
- 90 days allowed for supervisory response process (one 30 day extension possible)
- If complaint resolution is not achieved in 90 days, Bishop shall either:
 1. Dismiss the complaint with consent of the cabinet giving reasons in writing
 2. Refer matter to the counsel for the church as a complaint
- **New term in BOD: Abeyance** ---A complaint may be held in abeyance due to matter being litigated in civil court. (BOD 2012, ¶1363.1g) Complaint must be reviewed every 90 days by the Bishop and BOOM.

Mandate to provide for healing (BOD 2012, ¶¶1363.1b,f; 2701.4c)

- Three roles of bishop or designee (often a district superintendent) handling a complaint of clergy sexual misconduct:
 1. Administrative: Fair process, follow procedures, advocate for all parties
 2. Supervisory: Clergy accountability, pastoral appointment, disciplinary measures and/or behavioral covenant for clergy
 3. Pastoral: Promote healing for all parties
- The *Discipline* also allows for the use of a Response Team to provide pastoral care when handling and following-up on a complaint: the Bishop may select “persons with qualifications and experience in assessment, intervention, or healing” to assist during the supervisory response. (¶1363.1b)
- “The United Methodist Church commends the use of Response Teams in cases of sexual misconduct by ministerial leaders and urges judicatory leaders to train and employ them.” (BOR, 2043, pp.131-134)
- Provide advocates/support person for alleged primary victim(s), for the accused, and for families involved.
- Use Response Team to facilitate congregational healing through processing feelings and thoughts.
- Provide visibility of Bishop or District Superintendent to convey official communications to congregation
- Provide debriefing following a congregational intervention.