

Instructions for Completing Standing Form (2021)



The Christian Church In Nebraska requests that all active and inactive clergy, ordained and commissioned, complete this form once each year. You will be notified by the Regional Office when it is time to complete this report.

If you are new to this Region, please take the time to complete this form which will help us to help you to keep your Standing current. Please make sure that the Region from where you moved has sent us a letter (hard copy or email) that affirms your good standing until your relocation.

Background

In keeping with The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Regional Churches are responsible for reviewing and certifying the Ministerial Standing of all ordained and commissioned Disciples clergy each year who live in the Region. When your Standing is acknowledged by the Regional Church, your name is listed in the Official Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the ensuing year. It is important to know that the Year Book is the primary document that the IRS uses to verify ministerial standing; which is the basis for your eligibility for housing allowance exclusions, as well as your access to Search & Call. Standing translates to your being “accountable and up-to-date with” the required denominational criteria for maintaining your ecclesiastical certification.

The questions asked in the corresponding Request for Ministerial Standing Form are as detailed as they are for a purpose. Please complete the entire form as accurately as possible. Many of the questions are directly related to questions asked of the Region by the Office of Search & Call (who keeps all ministerial records) when your Standing is transferred from one Region to another. The more complete and accurate your replies here, the more complete and accurate your records are with the General Church.

NOTES Embedded in Ministerial Standing Application Form

[1] Standing does not necessarily include ecclesiastical endorsement, but ecclesiastical endorsement requires initial and ongoing Standing.

[2] GCOM = General Commission on Ministry, as different from a Regional Commission on Ministry (in Nebraska the R-CoM is called the Pastoral Leadership Commission)

[3] PLEASE NOTE: Retired-Inactive or Retired-Active but not employed --- Employment Criteria: “Standing for ministers in active service continues so long as the minister does and reports the following: Performs faithfully the duties of a minister as authorized by Commissioning or Ordination, either in an occupation recognized by the church’s ministerial in purpose or in a service recognized by the church as ministerial in purpose.” (Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry [II.F.2.b.i])

The PLC is working through how to extend the Retired Status to **Commissioned Ministers**, so are currently asking Retired Commissioned Ministers to please indicate so, and we will follow-up with you individually.

[4] “Standing continues so long as the minister maintains relations with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including participating membership in a recognized congregation in the community where feasible.” (Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry [II.F.2.b.iii])

[5] **Healthy Boundaries Training:** All active clergy, both ordained and commissioned, are required to complete six hours of Healthy Boundary Training for Clergy every three years beginning in 2020. Approved training is provided by the Christian Church In Nebraska. Other options may be: courses offered by other Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), member Communion/Denominations of the Churches Uniting in Christ, or trainings pre-approved by the Pastoral Leadership Commission on a case-by-case basis (please contact the Regional Minister directly, and be prepared to submit a full schedule and syllabus of the training). Recently, the PLC approved the Healthy Boundaries Training offered by Lexington Theological Seminary (LTS) as an on-line course.

Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Training: All active clergy, both ordained and commissioned, are required to complete six hours of Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation training every three years beginning in 2020. Approved training is provided by the Christian Church In Nebraska. Other options may be: courses offered by other Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), or trainings pre-approved by the Pastoral Leadership Commission on a case-by-case basis (please contact the Regional Minister directly, and be prepared to submit a full schedule and syllabus of the training). Recently, the PLC approved the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Training offered by Lexington Theological Seminary (LTS) as an on-line course.

Special Situations:

- **Candidates for Commissioned or Ordained Ministry, or for Standing** should complete the trainings as they are offered and must complete the Healthy Boundary Training prior to approval for ordination, commissioning, or Standing.
- **Pastors transferring Standing** from another Region should enter the training cycle at the earliest opportunity. The pastor must also either have completed a Healthy Boundary Training with the past 4 years, or complete an approved course within one year or transfer into Nebraska.
- **Inactive Retired Clergy** are not required to complete these trainings. However, inactive retired clergy who wish to re-enter active ministry must enter the training cycle at the earliest

opportunity. If the pastor has not participated in a Healthy Boundary Training with the past 4 years, an approved course must be completed within one year of become active again.

The Christian Church In Nebraska provides a link to an **on-line Healthy Boundaries Training** provided by Lewis Center for Church Leadership: <https://disciples-ne.org/boundaries-training-october-and-november-2016/>. As of 2019, this on-line Training is accepted to meet the expectations for Healthy Boundary Training.

[6] Qualifications for Standing include participation in “programs of study, research, growth, renewal.” (Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry [II.F.2.b.ii])