



1           **CONCERNING THE CONSIDERATION OF REINSTATEMENT OF STANDING**  
2           **FOR A CLERGYPERSON WHOSE STANDING HAS BEEN INVOLUNTARILY**  
3           **REMOVED IN THIS OR IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
4           **(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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6           *This procedure outlines steps for consideration of an application for reinstatement of standing if the*  
7           *Mid-America Commission on the Order of Ministry removed that standing. If standing was removed*  
8           *by another Region, you must contact that Region for re-instatement.*  
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10          **Step 1: Determination of condition of termination of standing.**

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12          If the removal of standing was voluntary under the provisions of COM 5, that procedure is to be  
13          followed. If the removal of standing was involuntary—by action of a Commission of this or other  
14          Region over the objections of the minister or by relinquishment of standing upon request in order to  
15          avoid adjudication—the following procedure will be followed.  
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17          **Step 2: Procedure for Consideration of Reinstatement of Standing**

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19          A request for reinstatement implies that the minister believes the underlying causes of misconduct  
20          leading to the removal of standing have been dealt with and that there is ample evidence to guarantee  
21          that such behavior will never occur again. The formal request for reinstatement is a request that the  
22          Regional Commission on the Order of Ministry (RCOM) investigate the charges and circumstances  
23          of misconduct, investigate the petitioner’s life and behavior since the removal of standing, review  
24          references, psychological tests and reports, and interview the candidate to determine whether the  
25          Commission can concur with the belief of the petitioner that the prior incidents or similar behavior  
26          will never occur again.  
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- 28           a. The reinstatement review process will begin with a formal letter from the Petitioner to the  
29           Coordinator of the Regional Commission on the Order of Ministry requesting the review.  
30           This letter may not be filed less than one year after the removal of standing occurred.  
31           b. The RCOM Coordinator will make an appointment for a personal interview, at which  
32           time this policy will be explained and a determination made that the Petitioner is willing  
33           to comply with the procedure, bear all costs incurred and cooperate with the process in  
34           every possible way. The Petitioner will sign a letter indicating understanding of and  
35           agreement with the process and that the initiation of the process does not guarantee  
36           reinstatement at the end of the extensive process.  
37           c. Once the official request is made, the Petitioner will sign a release, authorizing persons  
38           who may have information about the circumstances of the removal of standing to reveal  
39           that information to our Commission.  
40           d. The Chair of the Commission, the RCOM Coordinator and legal counsel for the region  
41           will appoint an investigative team to investigate the previous allegations and to  
42           investigate the petitioner’s background for evidence of similar conduct or other behavior  
43           that would be detrimental to ministry. Cost of the investigation will be borne by the



- 44 petitioner. A good faith deposit of \$2500 for expenses will be required before the  
45 investigation will begin.
- 46 e. The Petitioner will undergo a psychological evaluation with an agency specified by the  
47 Commission. This will be done at the expense of the Petitioner. The Petitioner will sign a  
48 release, allowing the results to be shared with the Commission.
- 49 f. An evaluation team assigned by the Commission will review: the original investigation  
50 reports, the psychological evaluation and all supporting information. The team will  
51 interview the Petitioner.
- 52 g. If the evaluation team feels the Petitioner's evidence shows that the Petitioner has fully  
53 dealt with the causes of the past behavior, has completed steps at reconciliation with prior  
54 victims and has demonstrated that no pattern of inappropriate behavior has recurred or is  
55 likely to recur, then a formal reinstatement hearing may be convened by the RCOM.
- 56 h. A formal reinstatement hearing would be held, at which the Commission may authorize a  
57 probationary period of conditional reinstatement. This period shall not be less than seven  
58 years in duration. If the probationary period is granted, a team of pastor-preceptors or  
59 mentors will be assigned to observe during the Petitioner's ministries, whether employed  
60 or volunteer. The Commission will conduct an annual review. After completion of seven  
61 years of probation, a formal hearing for final reinstatement may be held. It is understood  
62 that at any time in the process the Commission may determine that the process is not  
63 fruitful and the petition for reinstatement denied.
- 64 i. Completing the process for recognition of standing does not, in itself, assure a position in  
65 ministry within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The "call" system of the  
66 Christian Church leaves to congregations and other ministry units, the right to select their  
67 own minister(s) within the policies and criteria of the Christian Church. Although the  
68 Regional Minister Team provides consultation and assistance in every way possible in the  
69 process of the call, they will not presume upon the authority of the congregation. The  
70 "call" of a congregation to a minister to become the resident pastor does not, in itself,  
71 assure recognition of standing. That function has been delegated to the Region who has  
72 delegated it to the Regional Commission on the Order of Ministry.