**Policy for Communication of Ministerial Credential Status**

**Ministerial Leadership Commission - Western District Conference**

* *Approved by Ministerial Leadership Commission October 30, 2020*
* *Effective January 1, 2021*

The Ministerial Leadership Commission (MLC) of Western District Conference (WDC) is the body that credentials ministers in WDC by commissioning, licensing, and ordaining candidates for ministry. The MLC also supports the code of ministerial ethics in keeping with *A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership: Polity Manual for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA.*

The MLC desires transparency when credentialing changes happen, both in joy and in sorrow. The MLC also desires consistency in making such announcements to the broader WDC community (conference leaders, ministers, congregations, and members) and Mennonite Church USA (MC USA).

Therefore, credentialing communication based on circumstance will happen in the following ways.

When a minister is commissioned, licensed, or ordained for ministry:

- Announced to the WDC community through the weekly newsletter (e.g. *Sprouts*) (includes credential status)
- Status change made to WDC ministerial file
- Communicated to MC USA and updated in the ministerial database

When a minister begins or leaves a ministry position, retires, transfers into or out of WDC:

* Announced to the WDC community through the weekly newsletter (e.g. *Sprouts*) (includes credential status)
* Status change made to WDC ministerial file
* Communicated to MC USA and updated in the ministerial database

When a minister enters a ministerial misconduct investigation, announcements will be made in the following ways;

* When a formal Complaint is filed the Ministerial Leadership Commission will follow the communication guidelines of the *Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure*
* When the Investigation begins Ministerial Leadership Commission will follow the communication guidelines of the *Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure*
* If a Charge is filed and sanction determined, if there is an Appeal, and when there is a Judgment, Ministerial Leadership Commission will follow the communication guidelines of the *Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure*, and will also make an announcement to the WDC community through the weekly newsletter (e.g. *Sprouts*).
* When the MLC addresses the past misconduct of a credentialed minister, that will be announced to the WDC community through the weekly newsletter (e.g. *Sprouts*).