

**Supplementary Guidelines for Interpreting  
The *Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure*  
of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada (2016)**

*Affirmed by the Western District Conference Ministerial Leadership Commission  
in August 2021 as an intermediary working document,  
pending revisions of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada  
misconduct prevention and accountability resources*

**I. GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING REPORTS ALLEGING MINISTERIAL MISCONDUCT**

**Preamble to Section 3.B:**

Upon receiving a report alleging ministerial misconduct, the *area conference minister* will complete steps 3.B.1, 3.B.4, and 3.B.5.

If the report clearly alleges ministerial abuse (abuse directly resulting in physical, psychological, emotional, or spiritual harm or vulnerability for specific persons), the *area conference minister* will also complete steps 3.B.2 and 3.B.3.

If the report does not clearly allege ministerial abuse, the *area conference minister* will bring a confidential report (not naming the reporter or alleged victim) to the *Ministerial Leadership Commission (MLC)* for discernment. See Supplement to Section 3.

If “a person who believes that a minister has engaged in misconduct or ministerial sexual misconduct” is not willing or able to submit a formal complaint, the *area conference minister* will bring a confidential report (not naming the reporter or alleged victim) to the *MLC* for discernment. See Supplement to Section 3.

**Supplement to Section 3:** Report of Misconduct with no Written Complaint and/or Not Alleging Ministerial Abuse.

1. Upon receiving a report from the *area conference minister* as described in the Preamble to Section 3.B, the *MLC* will convene within 7 days to review the report.
2. The *MLC* will review whether the report alleges ministerial abuse. If the *MLC* finds that it does allege ministerial abuse, the *area conference minister* will complete 3.B.2 and 3.B.3, and the procedure will continue with 3.C.

3. If the *MLC* finds that the report alleges ministerial abuse but “a person who believes that a minister has engaged in misconduct or ministerial sexual misconduct” is not willing or able to submit a formal complaint, the *MLC* will determine whether to initiate a complaint because of a compelling threat to health and/or safety.
4. If the *MLC* finds that the report does not allege ministerial abuse, the *MLC* will have discretion for whether and how to address the report. Options include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Gathering more information regarding the report.
  - b. Determining that the report lacks a credible allegation of ministerial misconduct, thereby declining to initiate further process.
  - c. Proceeding with the *Policy and Procedure* without modification.
  - d. Asking the *MLC* chair to initiate a complaint.
  - e. Using a different process as an alternative to the *Policy and Procedure*.

## **II. ADDENDUM:**

The Ministerial Leadership Commission will appoint a standing Abuse Prevention and Response Resource Team, to consult for additional expertise or referral as needed.