



**The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
of Northern California-Nevada**

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Date: October 4, 2011

From: Regional Recognition and Standing Committee

To: All Ordained and Commissioned Disciples of Christ Clergy

Re: Annual Standing Review Form and Clergy Ethics Form

Fall Greetings to each of you and thanks for the ministry that you provide in so many settings and to such an array of God's children. What a joy and honor it is to serve together in the name of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

It's that time of year again when we ask for your cooperation in completing an Annual Review Form. We need your information to complete the report we send to the Disciples Yearbook at the end of 2011. Also, it is important to remember that only persons listed in the Yearbook are able to claim special ministerial income tax benefits. In addition, many persons across the US go immediately to the Yearbook to locate their former beloved minister, or a seminary classmate, or the minister that married them.

Some information that may help anticipated questions:

1. If you completed a form last year, **you still need to complete one this year. Failure to do so by the deadline will result in removal of standing "not for cause."**

2. **Because the Code of Ethics is new this year, EVERYONE should sign a new form and return with your Annual Review Form.** (The Code of Ethics is new because the new "Ordering of Ministry" document for the entire denomination went into effect August 1, 2011, and in that document there were changes to the Code of Ethics).

3. Yes, retired clergy do need to complete this form whether you are active in any ministry or not.

**Please note that the completion of this form is a requirement to maintain your standing; the deadline for returning it to the Regional Office is November 4. You can now fill out this form on-line ([www.ccncn.org](http://www.ccncn.org)) but you still must print it out and mail it in. Sorry, we do not have the program needed to complete and "send."**

Thanks for your cooperation and blessings on your ministry,

Tom Harshman  
Recognition and Standing Chair

Ben Bohren  
Regional Minister

**Important information for those who have not yet completed the REQUIRED Healthy Boundary Training 301 that was offered four times this past May. The final offering of this course will be Friday, February 17. SAVE THIS DATE NOW! This course will not be offered again. Location TBA**

# My Ministerial Code of Ethics

Believing that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the living God and proclaiming him Lord and Savior of the world, I reaffirm my vows as a minister. Through dedication and discipline I will lead and serve with integrity. Relying on the grace of God, I commit myself to the following:

## Personal Conduct

- Witnessing to the ministry of Jesus Christ
- Dedicating time, strength, vitality and energy for effective ministry
- Growing in faith, knowledge and the practice of ministry through the spiritual disciplines, study, continuing education, and service
- Living a life that honors my commitments to my family, including the need for privacy and time together
- Taking time for physical and spiritual renewal, recreation, and vacation
- Being a faithful steward of God's gifts to me by managing time, talents, and financial resources responsibly and generously
- Accepting responsibility for all debts that I incur
- Keeping physically and emotionally fit, and refraining from substance abuse and other abusive behaviors
- Using my position, power, and authority for good and never for exploiting another
- Maintaining high moral standards in my sexual behavior
- Regarding all persons with equal respect and concern, and undertaking to minister impartially

## Relationship To The Church That I Serve

- Nurturing and offering my gifts for ministry to the Church
- Calling forth and nurturing the gifts of others in the church, and joining their gifts with mine, for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ and the health of the Church
- Preaching and teaching the gospel without fear or favor and speaking the truth in love
- Administering the sacraments/ordinances and services of the Church with integrity and not for financial gain
- Working cooperatively and collegially with those whom I serve in the particular ministry to which I have been called
- Administering the corporate finances of the Church with personal integrity
- Refraining from accepting any gift which would compromise the church's ministry
- Protecting confidences; covenanting to only tell those who need to know, what they need to know, when they need to know it.

- Acting to prevent and to report known or suspected cases of physical or sexual abuse or neglect
- Encouraging and participating in the regular evaluation of my ministry and cooperating with the Region in the annual review of my ministerial Standing
- Seeking the counsel of the Regional Minister should divisive tensions threaten my relationship with those I serve

## Relationship To Ministry Colleagues

- Engaging in covenant relationships with colleagues, which involve nurture, discipline, family support, vigorous dialogue, mutual teaching and learning, and spiritual formation
- Supporting colleagues in ministry and their families and not exploiting their problems or crises
- Performing pastoral services within another congregation or for a member of another congregation only at the request of that congregation's elders and current pastor

- Supporting, and at no time speaking maliciously of, the ministry of my predecessors or another minister in the congregation
- Encouraging the ministry of my successor upon my retirement or departure from a ministerial position, without interfering or intruding, and by making it clear to former parishioners that I am no longer their pastor, nor will I perform any pastoral services unless requested by the congregation's elders and current pastor.

## Relationship To The Community And The Wider Church

- Participating responsibly in the life and work of my community, bearing prophetic witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and working toward a just and morally responsible society
- Participating faithfully in the life and work of all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Seeking to know, understand, and respect the diversity of opinions and people within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Being a responsible representative of the one Church of Jesus Christ and participating in activities which strengthen its ministry, witness, and mission

Signature

**ANNUAL MINISTERIAL STANDING REVIEW FOR 2011  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA/NEVADA**

**Explanation:** In keeping with **The Design** of the Christian Church, Regions are responsible for reviewing and certifying the Standing of all ordained and licensed Disciples clergy each year. When your Standing is acknowledged by the Region, your name is listed in the official *Year Book & Directory* of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the ensuing year. Ministers with Standing may call upon the Christian Church for services, support, references, relocation assistance, denominational endorsement, and scholarship aid.

**FAILURE TO COMPLETE, SIGN, AND RETURN THIS FORM BY  
November 4, 2011  
WILL INDICATE THAT YOU NO LONGER DESIRE STANDING**

Print legal name \_\_\_\_\_ Date form completed \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Year I began in Region \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Code (X whichever applies)

AA – African American   
  As – Asian   
  E – European   
  Ha - Haitian   
  Hi - Hispanic  
 M – Middle Eastern   
  N – Native American/First Nations   
  O – Other   
  P – Pacific Islander

	YES	NO
Do you wish to continue your ministerial Standing with the Region?		
I have read and understand the <b>NEW Ministerial Code of Ethics</b> at <a href="http://www.disciples.org">www.disciples.org</a> . Please sign and return with this form.		
I have read and understand the <b>NEW Regional Policy on Clergy Sexual and Ethical Conduct</b> (as contained in the Order of Ministry Policies posted on the <a href="http://ccncn.org">ccncn.org</a> website)		

I participated in the following Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) events this past year (X all that apply)

Annual Meeting   
  General Assembly   
  Earl Lectures   
  Geographical Area Mtgs.  
 Clergy Retreat   
 Ecumenical/Interfaith Gatherings   
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Offices accepted and/or responsibilities performed during the past year:

Geographical \_\_\_\_\_

Regional \_\_\_\_\_

General \_\_\_\_\_

Ecumenical/Interfaith \_\_\_\_\_

Continuing Education opportunities in which I have participated during the past year (include which Healthy Boundary Training Session attended):

Name of Event	# of contact hours	How event enhanced my ministry	I'd recommend it to colleagues

**I am (please X all that apply):**

Commissioned     Ordained     Full-time     Part-time  
 Interim     Retired     Supply     Currently on disability  
 Out of ministry

**DATE AND PLACE OF ORDINATION OR COMMISSIONING (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_\_**

My present ministerial position \_\_\_\_\_ Began \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Title Mo Yr

Other ministry or secular employment (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not serving in active ministry at present, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

My church membership is with \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of congregation, town/city

My participation includes:  Regular worship attendance     Leadership (please list)     Other (please explain)

**PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS:**     Ministry     Home

Ministry address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Personal e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE EARNED DEGREES:**    AA    BA/BS    MA    BD    M.Div    D.Min    Ph.D.

Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you've done a doctoral dissertation/thesis/emphasis, please list it below: \_\_\_\_\_

**I receive an annual performance review (evaluation)**     Yes     No

**My church has an active Pastoral Relations Committee**     Yes     No

**I receive a Sabbatical (describe arrangement)** \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 4, 2011 TO:**  
Rev. Dr. H. Ben Bohren, Regional Minister  
Christian Church of Northern California/Nevada  
9260 Alcosta Blvd., C-18  
San Ramon, CA 94583-4143

*Please make a photocopy of this form for your records.*

