

YORK ASSOCIATION OF THE PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Policy Manual

Revised 5/18/21

York Association
Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ

Policy Manual

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Policy #101

Policy Review

Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article V, Paragraph 137.

It shall be the policy of the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ that the Association Council will annually appoint a committee to conduct a review and update of Association policies. This committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President.

Date Approved by Association Council:

_____ May 17, 2011 _____

Attested by:

Review Date:

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Policy #102

Stipends for General Synod Attendance

*Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article III, Paragraph 119, Sections c and d.
York Association Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Section c*

It shall be the policy of the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ that the Penn Central Delegates to General Synod from the York Association shall receive a stipend from the York Association to help defray expenses. Funding for the stipends will be allocated in each annual budget with balances from non-Synod years carried over to the budget of the year in which General Synod meets.

Funds will be distributed to Delegates at least one (1) month prior to the date of General Synod meeting.

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Policy #103

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

Authorization: Civil Rights Act, 1964

Pennsylvania Human Relations Act

Penn Central Conference Policy #205.3

York Association Constitution Article IV, Paragraph 12,(lines 75-76)

According to the York Association Policy 403 all authorized ministers must keep current with the United Church of Christ boundary training.

It shall be the policy of the York Association that all employees, consultants, authorized ministers, volunteers and participants be able to enjoy an environment free from all forms of discrimination while participating in Association related activities. This policy statement specifically addresses a form of sex discrimination, sexual harassment.

The York Association affirms the inherent value of each person as a child of God, and sexual harassment is a degradation of that value. Therefore, whether in informal or formal settings, to be judged by looks, physical appearances, gender, sexual orientation is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable to expect tolerance of sexual advances. For example, job security cannot be dependent upon how or whether one responds to sexual overtures. Additionally, one should not have to work in an unnecessarily stressful atmosphere due to sexual harassment.

The York Association acknowledges that:

1. Sexual harassment is a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, as amended; and
2. It is a form of misconduct which undermines the integrity of the employment/volunteer/participant relationship and the church community.

It is the sincere intent of the York Association, as a community of Christ's people, to set an ethical standard and moral tone that will assure an unbiased environment in which harassment will not occur, as well as to fulfill its legal obligation in this respect.

Sexual harassment is defined under the law. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature are considered illegal harassment when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the individual's employment (including volunteer status or activity);
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

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Sexual harassment is illegal regardless of the gender of the aggressor or the victim and regardless of whether the motivation behind the harassment is heterosexual or homosexual.

Sexual harassment does not refer to occasional compliments of a socially acceptable nature. It refers to behaviors that are not welcome and are personally offensive to a reasonable person, sometimes interfering with work effectiveness or creating a hostile environment. Sexual harassment can be understood as an abuse of power.

Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance or participation in church activities or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or church environment.

There are a wide range of behaviors which can constitute sexual harassment, including:

- Written contact, such as sexually suggestive or obscene letters, notes, electronic communications, or invitations.
- Verbal contact, such as sexually suggestive or obscene comments, threats, slurs, epithets, jokes about gender-specific traits, sexual propositions;
- Physical contact, such as intentional touching, pinching, brushing against another's body, impeding or blocking movement, assault, coercing sexual intercourse; or
- Visual contact, such as leering or staring at another's body, gesturing, displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, posters, or magazines.

If one believes he/she is the victim of sexual harassment, the complainant can attempt to resolve the issue by speaking directly to the harasser by making one's objection clear. The complainant may also bring the problem to the attention of his or her supervisor, pastor, York Association Committee on Ministry, or an Association/Conference official. An investigation of the complaint of sexual harassment will be handled neutrally, and as expeditiously and confidentially as possible.

Appropriate sanctions will be levied against the perpetrator where complaints of sexual harassment are substantiated.

Whether or not there has been a confrontation or the filing of a complaint/grievance, if the York Association has reason to believe that harassment is occurring, the Association will investigate it and take such steps as may be necessary to assure an unbiased environment.

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Training and assistance through the York Association is available to persons involved in the investigation or resolution of complaints of sexual harassment.

Under state and federal law, persons who believe they are victims of sexual harassment have a right to file a formal complaint of discrimination with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (717-787-9784) or with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (800-669-4000) and the York Association is fully supportive of one's legal right to do so.

This policy is based on and affirms the Pronouncement on Sexual Harassment and Abuse in the Church of the 18th Synod of the United Church of Christ. All employees, authorized ministers and volunteers will be informed of this policy and procedure at the time of employment, granting of standing, or enlistment for volunteer service.

This policy will be reviewed, updated, and distributed periodically thereafter.

(The York Association recommends adoption of the above policy, modified with name changes, by its local churches.)

Further, in cases of alleged sexual harassment or sexual misconduct the York Association shall:

- a) Contact conference staff immediately and cooperate with the Conference Response Team (following page)
- b) Utilize suggestions described in the latest draft of guidelines developed by the Office of Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization Ministry (MESA)
www.insuranceboard.org Safety Solutions.
- c) Follow the review and discipline procedures outlined in the *Manual on Ministry*.

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Oct 20, 2015

Attested by:

Review Date:

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Date: November 17, 2015



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Policy #104

Alcohol at Association-Sponsored Social Events

It shall be the policy of the York Association to not underwrite the cost of alcoholic beverages served at Association-sponsored social events.

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Policy #201

Minutes of York Association Council Meetings

*Authorization: York Association Constitution Article VIII, Paragraph 30
York Association Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph 125, Section c and h*

It shall be the policy of the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ that minutes from the meetings of the York Association Council shall be for the use of Council members. Such minutes shall be distributed to Council members within 3 weeks of each meeting for review and pending approval at the following Council meeting.

Actions of Council recorded in the minutes shall be reported to the York Association Membership through publication in the York Association Newsletter.

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Policy #301

Limit on York Association Council Expenditures

Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article III, Paragraph 120, Section c.

It shall be the policy of the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ that expenditures in excess of \$5000 shall require the approval of the York Association membership.

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Policy #302

Check Signing

*Authorization: York Association Constitution Article I, Paragraph 102, section b.
York Association By-Laws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Sections d and e.*

It shall be the policy of the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ that both the Treasurer and the Secretary/Registrar be authorized to sign all checks, that checks up to \$1000 require one (1) signature, and that all checks over \$1000 require two (2) signatures. In the absence of the Treasurer and/or the Secretary/Registrar, the Council President and/or Vice-President may substitute as authorized check signers.

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November 10, 2013

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Policy #303

Closing Date for Financial Records

*Authorization: York Association Constitution Article I, Paragraph 102, section b.
York Association By-Laws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Sections d and e.*

It shall be the policy of the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ that all contributions from Member Churches for the fiscal year must be received by December 31 of the same year in order to be credited for that fiscal year. All Contributions received after that date will be credited to the next fiscal year.

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Policy #304

Reporting of Bills

Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Sections c and d

It shall be the policy of the York Association that the Treasurer will report to the Association Council all bills paid during each month.

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Policy #305

Retention of Financial Records

Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Sections d and e

It shall be the policy of the York Association that financial records will be maintained for a period of 6 years.

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Policy #306

Offerings at York Association Events

*Authorization: York Association Constitution Article V, Paragraph 23
York Association Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Section c*

It shall be the policy of the York Association that offerings collected at Ordination and Installation services shall be designated to benefit the Members in Discernment Fund.

The designation of offerings at other Association events shall be determined by the committee sponsoring the event.

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January 17, 2012

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Policy #307

Annual Fiscal Review or Audit

Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Section f

It shall be the policy of the York Association that the Association Council will schedule an annual internal audit of the treasurer's records using a checklist approved by Council. The Association Council shall appoint no fewer than 2 people as auditors. Those members shall hold their membership in separate churches of the Association. The audit shall be completed by the end of the 1st quarter following the closing of the fiscal year with a written report supplied to Council.

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Cash Handling Procedure

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Policy #308

Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Section c & d

It shall be the policy of the York Association that offerings collected at Association events shall be counted by 2 members of the Association from separate churches other than the treasurer. The committee overseeing the event will appoint the counters. Those individuals will complete and sign a "Deposit Voucher" to be given to the treasurer along with the monies for deposit.

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Written Check Request

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Policy #309

Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Section c

It shall be the policy of the York Association that the treasurer only writes checks for which he or she has received a "Check Request Voucher".

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General Liability Insurance

Policy #310

*Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article III, Paragraph 119, Section b
York Association Bylaws Article III, Paragraph 120, Section c
York Association Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph 127, Section c*

It shall be the policy of the York Association that the Association will carry General Liability Insurance. The treasurer is responsible for seeing that it is kept current and/or renewed in a timely manner.

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Policy # 311

Use of Form 1099-MISC

*Authorization: York Association Bylaws, Article III, Paragraph 120, section c
York Association Bylaws, Article IV, Paragraph 127, Sections c & d*

It shall be the policy of the York Association to comply with Internal Revenue Service regulations as they apply to compensation for services rendered on behalf of the Association. These regulations state in part:

A church or religious organization must use Form 1099-MISC if it pays an unincorporated individual or entity \$600 or more in any calendar year for one of the following payments: gross rents, commissions, fees, or other compensation paid to non-employees; prizes and awards; or other fixed and determinable income.

Churches or religious organizations must furnish each payee with a copy of the Form 1099-MISC by January 31; and file Copy A of Form 1099-MISC with the IRS by February 28.

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5/19/15

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Policy #401 Retiring Pastor: Transition Plan for Worship and Practice of Faith

*Authorization: York Association Bylaws Article I, Paragraph 103, Sections b and c
York Association Bylaws Article I, Paragraph 104, Sections b and c
York Association Bylaws Article II, Paragraph 116*

It shall be the policy of the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ that pastors with standing in the York Association who retire from a member church with standing in the York Association shall present to the Committee on Ministry prior to the exit interview a transition plan that addresses the following issues.

- A. Where does the retiring pastor intend to worship and practice his or her faith (i.e., new congregation; remain with current congregation)?
- B. If the retiring pastor intends to worship and practice his or her faith with the congregation from which s/he is retiring, what steps will be taken to mitigate the potential for undue influence or interference in the succeeding pastor's efforts to establish him or herself in the pastor role?
- C. If the retiring pastor intends to worship and practice his or her faith with a new congregation, what steps will be taken to address the grief that accompanies the severing of relationships?

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7/20/2010

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Policy #402

Financial Support for Members in Discernment

*Authorization: York Association Constitution Article V, Paragraph 13 (lines 83-84)
York Association Bylaws Article II, Paragraphs 105, 106, and 110*

It shall be the policy of the York Association that members in discernment may apply for financial support through the Committee on Ministry.

Any loans made to members in discernment shall be forgiven after five years of active service as an authorized minister in the United Church of Christ.

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Policy #403

Continuing Education in Boundaries and Ethics

*Authorization: York Association By-Laws Article I, Paragraph 103, Section b
York Association By-Laws Article I, Paragraph 104, Section c*

It shall be the policy of the York association that, to retain standing in the Association, Authorized Ministers, except those with Exempt Standing, must complete 2 hours of continuing education in boundaries and ethics per calendar year.

The Association in cooperation with the Conference will offer opportunities for continuing education in boundaries and ethics throughout the year. Alternative training opportunities may be accepted if approved by the Committee on Ministry.

Attendance at Conference-sponsored continuing education events will be recorded by the Penn Central Conference and will be shared with the York Association Committee on Ministry. In the case of alternative training, the authorized minister must submit a certificate of completion to the Conference in order to receive credit.

Records of Continuing Education in Boundaries and Ethics will be monitored by the Committee on Ministry. Authorized Ministers who are not in compliance will be notified in the first quarter of the calendar year and be given a period of time to come into compliance before action to suspend standing is taken.

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Policy #404

When Standing in the Association Has Been Revoked

*Authorization: York Association Constitution, Article IV, Paragraph 12 (lines 75-76)
York Association By-Laws, Article I, Paragraph 103, Section e
York Association By-Laws, Article I, Paragraph 104, Section f*

It shall be the policy of the York Association that in the event an authorized minister of the York Association has his or her standing revoked, membership on all committees shall be revoked at the same time. Any such person shall remain ineligible for committee membership until such time as standing is reinstated.

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Policy #405

Pastoral Fitness Review Referral Policy

*Authorization: York Association Constitution Article III; Section 6
York Association Constitution Article VIII; Section 31
York Association Bylaws Article I; Section 100
York Association Bylaws Article V; Section 133; Paragraphs a, b, and d*

It shall be the policy of the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ that, in matters of pastoral fitness, the Association recognizes the Penn Central Conference's Unified Fitness Review Committee (PCC-UFRC) as having the same authority as the York Association's Committee on Ministry.

In order to use the resources and expertise of the PC-UFRC, the York Association covenants to:

- a) Send pastoral fitness concerns, as determined by a vote of the York Association's Committee on Ministry, to the PCC-UFRC; and
- b) Accept the decisions of the PCC-UFRC without further investigation. This includes the initial outcome, the program of growth, and any final outcome of the review following a program of growth.

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Policy #406

Policy for Exempt Standing in the York Association

Authorization: Not sure what should go here

It shall be the policy of the York Association that in certain circumstances, ministers in the York Association may apply for Exempt Standing. To acquire Exempt Standing, the minister must:

- Apply to and be approved for that standing by the Committee on Ministry;
- Maintain membership in a UCC congregation;
- Continue to embody the ethics of the UCC ministerial code;
- Participate in the ongoing oversight of the Committee on Ministry, including annual information reviews, situational support consultations and fitness reviews; and
- Be responsive to communication from the Association and Conference as they are able.

By maintaining Exempt Standing, the minister will refrain from:

- Seeking ministerial positions;
- Entering into call agreements;
- Providing pulpit supply (except at their congregation of membership at the invitation of the pastor).
- Officiating at weddings and funerals (except as outlined below);
- Serving on committees of the Association, Conference, National or global settings of the church.

A UCC Minister with Exempt Standing may continue to:

- Participate in the life of their local church;
- Attend the annual meeting of the Association and Conference when possible;
- Co-officiate at the sacraments at the invitation of an active Ordained Minister;
- Officiate at weddings and funerals for family members in consultation with the pastor of the minister with exempt standing.
 - If those family members are members of another congregation, the minister with exempt standing is expected to advise the pastor of that congregation.

A UCC Minister with Exempt Standing is exempt from but not precluded from:

- Certain ongoing requirements of Ordained Ministerial Standing including periodic vocational support meetings, and continuing education for boundaries and ethics, as well as other educational opportunities.

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