

SEXUAL ETHICS POLICY

A task force was developed and charged with the task of reviewing our current sexual misconduct policies and to recommend revisions to that policy. This task force was requested by the Bishop and was chaired by Rachel Scott, coordinator of the conference Response Team for sexual misconduct situations. The group included Don Cottrill, Provost, Ed Boyd, Acadiana D.S., Elaine Burleigh and Patty Rives of the Response Team.

After reviewing all the previous policies of our annual conference regarding sexual misconduct and looking at similar policies from other annual conferences, a new policy was developed regarding sexual ethics for all persons in a ministerial role, clergy or lay. A separate policy was developed regarding sexual harassment of clergy by a professing member. These policies were sent to UM Sexual Ethics coordinator, Darryl Stephens, for consultation and review. After much discussion and development, the final policies were finalized and are being presented at annual conference for approval. These policies replace all previous policies on sexual misconduct with the exception of Safe Sanctuary policies which are primarily focused on protecting children, youth and vulnerable adults in our congregations.

These policies do not replace the Safe Sanctuaries Program. Rather they address the specific agreement of appropriate sexual conduct and the process of dealing with sexual misconduct within the Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church.