

Response Team Resources for the Local Church

What do we know?

- Bishop Bob's pastoral letter on what the Conference knows. (<http://bit.ly/Bishop-Ltr-8-8-16>)

What is the response of the Conference leadership?

- Bishop Bob has created a response team to gather information and to assist local churches and Conference through this difficult issue.

What is my role as the pastor?

- As the leader of the congregation, give guidance both pastorally and procedurally.
- The DSC policy on Clergy Misconduct includes a statement that care should be taken to assure that the least possible additional harm is done to the complainant and to the accused. (<http://bit.ly/Misconduct-Policy>)
- Create a culture of safety. Annually review your church's Safe Sanctuary policy. Ensure the policy is being followed.

What can I tell my congregation?

- Communicate as much information as you and your leadership feel will be helpful in your ministry setting
- You know your context and the most effective ways to communicate what you and your leadership decide is important to share. Please remember that public Facebook or public social media posts may cause unintentional harm to possible complainants and to the accused. Closed social media groups are often treated by their participants differently than public groups.

What resources are available to the local church?

- Safe Sanctuaries (<http://www.dscumc.org/safe-sanctuaries-policy>)
- Clergy Misconduct (<http://bit.ly/Misconduct-Policy>)
- Reporting Guidelines (<http://bit.ly/DSC-Reporting>)

Finally, what if someone comes forward with any allegation of victimization?

All allegations against minors and vulnerable adults must be reported to the appropriate legal authorities. If the allegation is against a clergy person, then it must also be reported to your District Superintendent