



East Ohio Conference

The United Methodist Church

**Policy on the Reinstatement of Clergy
to Align with the Decisions of the 2020/2024 General Conference**

Introduction:

This policy clarifies the process for the reinstatement of clergy members of the annual conference who previously have been terminated, surrendered, or have had their membership and/or license for ministry revoked by an Annual Conference or one of its legal predecessors due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, or for celebrating a same-gender wedding or union. This policy is intended as a beginning to the ongoing work the EOC Board of Ministry is committed to undertake as we repent of the harm we have done in enforcing policies intended to exclude and punish those in the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies. This process will be effective immediately upon the approval of the EOC Board of Ministry.

Process for Reinstatement:

1. Our colleague is invited to submit a written request for reinstatement both to the chair of the Board of Ministry (BOM) and to the Bishop. Such request must be submitted no later than May 15, 2025.
2. The episcopal office will forward our colleague's file to the BOM Conference Relations Committee (CRC) for a review. The CRC will verify that there are no unresolved concerns or disciplinary actions associated with our colleague's file.
3. A standard background check will be conducted on our colleague applying for reinstatement.
4. The CRC will meet with our colleague to begin rebuilding relationship. The CRC commits to listening, repentance, and penance in this conversation as we seek to move toward fuller reconciliation.
5. The CRC will make a recommendation regarding reinstatement to the Executive Committee of the BOM.
6. The Executive Committee of the BOM will act on the recommendation. If our colleague is affirmed for reinstatement by a 2/3 vote, that recommendation will be forwarded to the Clergy Executive Session for consideration and action; a 2/3 vote of the Clergy Session will be required.
7. If the Clergy Executive Session votes to affirm reinstatement, that reinstatement is effective immediately.

Under the terms of this process, persons desiring reinstatement of their full, provisional, or associate membership or license for ministry must submit a written request by May 15, 2025. If either the BOM or the Clergy Executive Session does not affirm the reinstatement, they may request review by another annual conference and must do so no later than November 30, 2025.

Additional notes:

¶¶365-369 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2020/2024* outline the typical process for the readmission of clergy after leaving the ministerial office or being terminated by action of the Annual Conference.