

Policy for Morally Fallen Ministry Staff Personnel

(Approved by Regional Council: Nov. 21, 2006)

Introduction

It is the privilege and responsibility of those serving as ministry staff personnel to maintain blameless moral lives in keeping with the requirement of the office held. Within FEB CENTRAL Region it has been the general conviction and practice that a morally fallen ministry staff person not be restored to ministry. However, in light of the Regional Council's revised position on the matter (see Guidelines for Allegations of Sexual Misconduct against Ministry Personnel and Guidelines for the Recognition of Divorced Elders/Pastors), approval may be granted for re-entrance into ministry provided the repentant ministry staff person submits to all of the following criteria:

- i. Submits to an established Care Team (for a minimum of three years) whose members and objectives are approved by the FEB CENTRAL Regional Director. This team will report on the ministry staff's progress both to the spiritual leadership of the church and the Regional Director.
- ii. Terminates the relationship with any sexual partner other than his/her spouse and demonstrates a willingness to restore his/her marriage (when applicable).
- iii. Confesses his/her failure to the membership of the church, naming what took place, the sins and lies that supported it, and the impact those actions have had on others.
- iv. Resigns immediately from active ministry (at such time ordination credentials will also be withdrawn), and fellowships at another local evangelical church (where full disclosure is made to the senior pastor and/or spiritual leadership).
- v. Submits to counseling with a professional Christian counselor (approved by the Regional Director) for both individual and marital assistance, fulfills all subsequent assignments, and demonstrates all responsibility for his/her actions by making significant changes in thinking and relational behavior.

When a recommendation to re-apply for active ministry service is granted by the Care Team, counselor, spouse (when applicable), and the spiritual leadership of the church, the Regional Director will be notified. The Regional Executive will then review the recommendations and proceed accordingly. Full disclosure to the senior pastor and/or spiritual leadership of the new evangelical church by the restored ministry staff person (and confirmed by the FEB CENTRAL Regional Director) will be required. The Regional Director will endeavour to inform the spiritual leadership where the restored (or un-restored) ministry staff person is seeking employment.

Likewise, the Regional Director will contact the ministry centres of incoming applicants who seek the office of Elder/Pastor within FEB CENTRAL, in order to confirm his/her moral record.

In cases where the church leadership (where the offense occurred) is unwilling to terminate the ministry staff person and abide by this policy, the Regional Council will withdraw the individual's ordination credentials, inform the member church of this decision and the reasons for which it has been made, and notify the affiliated FEB CENTRAL Association of the Council's actions.