

1 **Action Request #12**

2
3 **2021 OREGON-IDAHO**
4 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

5
6 **TITLE: Amending Clergy Housing Standards and Policy**

7 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: CF&A**

8 **SPOKESPERSON: Mark Bateman**

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:**

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: batemanmarke@gmail.com**

11 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-679-1517**

12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend referral to CF&A and Cabinet 20-0-0.**

13
14 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

15
16 See attached.

17
18 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

19
20 **What will this action accomplish?**

21
22 These changes are important updates and additions to our conference rules pertaining to clergy
23 housing standards and related policies.

24
25 **Why is it important?**

26
27 These changes are important updates and additions to our conference rules pertaining to clergy
28 housing standards and related policies.

29
30 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

31
32 These new rules will be tools for churches, clergy and District Superintendents in ensuring
33 equitable and appropriate housing for clergy in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

34
35 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

36
37 There is no cost associated with these rule changes.

1 **CLERGY HOUSING STANDARDS AND POLICY**
2 Page 49 of 2020 OR-ID Annual Conference Journal
3 Revised Policy, approved by CF&A – January 20, 2021
4
5

6 I. Defines the implementation of the responsibility for housing to be
7 used by clergy of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.
8

9 This Policy provides guidance for OR-ID Conference churches in the
10 implementation of housing for clergy appointed to their church or churches.
11 The requirement for providing clergy housing are noted in paragraphs
12 247.19, 258.2g(16), and 627 of the 2016 Discipline plus in the Commission
13 on Equitable Compensation Report in the 2020 OR-ID Conference Journal,
14 page 171.
15

16 A. The primary responsibility for clergy housing resides with the
17 Administrative Board, Church Council or other governing body. One of the
18 responsibilities as defined by 2016 Discipline, Paragraph 252.4e), is:
19 “review the recommendation of the committee on pastor-parish relations
20 regarding provisions of adequate housing for the pastor(s), and report the
21 same to the charge conference for approval.” Therefore, it is the
22 responsibility of the church governing body to provide adequate housing for
23 the pastor(s) and report this to the Charge Conference. A part of this is the
24 annual parsonage inspection referred to in Section ID of this policy. This
25 annual parsonage inspection report must also be provided to the District
26 Superintendent(s). See II below for church-owned parsonage standards
27 and III below for housing allowance standards.
28

29 B. The church governing body may delegate administrative responsibility
30 for clergy housing to the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee or to a
31 Parsonage Committee. However, it is understood that ultimate
32 responsibility resides with the church governing body.
33

34 C. If a housing allowance is provided in lieu of a parsonage, it shall be
35 reviewed annually in consultation with the District Superintendent(s) prior to
36 the adoption of the clergy salary package for the coming year by the
37 Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and Charge Conference.
38 Provision shall be made for an adequate allowance with guidance from III
39 below and information in the Commission on Equitable Compensation
40 Report.

1
2 D. If a Parsonage Committee is established, membership is to be
3 nominated by Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development
4 and elected by the Charge Conference, or appointed by the church
5 governing body. It is suggested that its membership include the following:
6 One trustee elected by the Board of Trustees, one member of the
7 Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, three members at large, the
8 minister, and one other member of the minister's household. This
9 Committee shall direct and oversee the parsonage upkeep and
10 maintenance. If there is a single governing body, this body may also serve
11 as the Parsonage Committee with strong input by the pastor and spouse.
12

13 The Parsonage Committee or the church governing body must
14 inspect the parsonage annually, preferably in April, to determine if these
15 housing recommendations are being maintained and refer to the Board of
16 Trustees any recommendations for improvement. The Parsonage
17 Committee should meet at least annually, and should report to the Charge
18 Conference (Discipline Paragraph 2533.4). The form, "Local Church
19 Parsonage Annual Report", in the Forms, End of Year section of the
20 umoi.org website should be used for this annual inspection. Even if the
21 parsonage is occupied by someone other than the pastor or is not
22 occupied, this annual inspection must be done. If a local church does not
23 perform an adequate annual inspection for two years, the District
24 Superintendent(s), may direct an inspection of the parsonage. The local
25 church may be charged for this inspection.
26

27 E. When more than one church share a pastor, all the churches shall
28 support the pastor's housing in proportional amount agreed upon by the
29 churches and the District Superintendent(s). A suggested method is for the
30 churches to support the pastor's housing in proportion to their support of
31 the pastor's salary. If a parsonage is provided, then all the churches shall
32 share the cost of parsonage maintenance in the agreed upon proportion.
33 These funds shall be used by the parsonage provider to maintain the
34 parsonage in the appropriate manner as directed by the Parsonage
35 Committee and this Policy. This is true, even if all or several churches
36 have a parsonage since the expense for the parsonage chosen to house
37 the pastor must be supported by all the churches in the agreed upon
38 proportion. Also, a Parsonage Committee shall be set up that includes
39 members from all the sharing churches with their voting on the Parsonage
40 Committee in proportion to their agreed upon parsonage support. (Note:

1 the minister and the minister's household member do not count in this
2 proportionality.)

3
4 F. Parsonage recommendations and the definition of an adequate housing
5 allowance (See IIIA) should apply to all ministers under appointment to a
6 local church regardless of marital status or family size.

7
8 G. If a church or charge does not have a parsonage, and no provision has
9 been made to provide for a housing allowance, the church shall either:

10
11 1. Develop a plan to acquire a suitable parsonage with sufficient
12 funding for the purchase, or

13
14 2. Provide for an adequate housing allowance for the minister(s).
15 (See IIIA and Commission on Equitable Compensation Report.)

16
17 H. During the annual Charge Conference, the District Superintendent(s)
18 may ask if the housing allowance provided by the local church is in
19 compliance with Conference standards. Each local church is to be
20 provided with a copy of the Clergy Housing Standards and Policy.

21
22
23
24 Note: for the rest of the Policy (Sections II, III, IV, and Pastor-Parish
25 Relations Committee/Parsonage Committee Agreement), the changes are
26 minor or refer to changes to the 2016 Discipline from the 1984 Discipline.

27
28 These changes are noted below.

29
30 Section IIA1, in second sentence, due to 2016 Discipline: Replace
31 267.2f(4) with 258.2g)(16).

32 Section IIA5, add: h. Parsonage shall have upgraded electrical service to
33 meet present day electrical needs.

34 Section IIC1, add: The pastor shall purchase renters insurance.

35
36 Section IIIC, in third sentence, due to 2016 Discipline: Replace 2537 and
37 2538 with 2544 and Conference Rule 12.061.