

1 **Action Request #7**
2 **2022 OREGON-IDAHO**
3 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
4

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

6 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Council on Finance & Administration**

7 **SPOKESPERSON: Mark Bateman**

8 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:**

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

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

11 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend referral to CF&A 20-0-0, in 2021.**

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

13 See attached.

14
15 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**
16

17 **What will this action accomplish?**

18 These changes are important updates and additions to our conference rules pertaining
19 to clergy housing standards and related policies.
20

21 **Why is it important?**

22 These changes are important updates and additions to our conference rules pertaining
23 to clergy housing standards and related policies.
24

25 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

26 These new rules will be tools for churches, clergy and District Superintendents in
27 ensuring equitable and appropriate housing for clergy in the Oregon-Idaho Annual
28 Conference.
29

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

31 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 used by clergy
7 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. The
11 requirement for providing clergy housing are noted in paragraphs 247.19, 258.2g(16),
12 and 627 of the 2016 Discipline plus in the Commission on Equitable Compensation
13 Report in the 2020 OR-ID Conference Journal, page 171.
14

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

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

31 ~~C. If a housing allowance is provided in lieu of a parsonage, it shall be reviewed~~
32 ~~annually in consultation with the District Superintendent(s) prior to the adoption of the~~
33 ~~clergy salary package for the coming year by the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations~~
34 ~~Committee and Charge Conference. Provision shall be made for an adequate~~
35 ~~allowance with guidance from III below and information in the Commission on Equitable~~
Compensation Report. When church-owned property is used as clergy housing, it
is referred to as a parsonage. Church-owned housing not used as clergy housing
is not a parsonage but remains subject to this policy. Property not used as
housing (by clergy or others) is not subject to this policy.

37
38 D. If a Parsonage Committee is established, membership is to be nominated by
39 Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development and elected by the Charge
40 Conference, or appointed by the church governing body. It is suggested that its
41 membership include the following: One trustee elected by the Board of Trustees, one
42 member of the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, three members at large, the
43 minister, and one other member of the minister’s household. This Committee shall
44 direct and oversee the parsonage upkeep and maintenance. If there is a single
45 governing body, this body may also serve as the Parsonage Committee with strong
46 input by the pastor and spouse.

1
2 The Parsonage Committee or the church governing body must inspect the
3 parsonage annually, preferably in April, to determine if these housing recommendations
4 are being maintained and refer to the Board of Trustees any recommendations for
5 improvement. The Parsonage Committee should meet at least annually, and should
6 report to the Charge Conference (Discipline Paragraph 2533.4). The form, "Local
7 Church Parsonage Annual Report", in the Forms, End of Year section of the umoi.org
8 website should be used for this annual inspection. ~~Even if the parsonage is occupied by~~
9 ~~someone other than the pastor or is not occupied, this annual inspection must be done.~~
10 If a local church does not perform an adequate annual inspection for two years, the
11 District Superintendent(s), may direct an inspection of the parsonage. The local church
12 may be charged for this inspection.

13
14 E. When more than one church share a pastor, all the churches shall support the
15 pastor's housing in proportional amount agreed upon by the churches and the District
16 Superintendent(s). A suggested method is for the churches to support the pastor's
17 housing in proportion to their support of the pastor's salary. If a parsonage is provided,
18 then all the churches shall share the cost of parsonage maintenance in the agreed upon
19 proportion. These funds shall be used by the parsonage provider to maintain the
20 parsonage in the appropriate manner as directed by the Parsonage Committee and this
21 Policy. This is true, even if all or several churches have a parsonage since the expense
22 for the parsonage chosen to house the pastor must be supported by all the churches in
23 the agreed upon proportion. Also, a Parsonage Committee shall be set up that includes
24 members from all the sharing churches with their voting on the Parsonage Committee in
25 proportion to their agreed upon parsonage support. (Note: the minister and the
26 minister's household member do not count in this proportionality.)

27
28 F. Parsonage recommendations and the definition of an adequate housing allowance
29 (See IIIA) should apply to all ministers under appointment to a local church regardless
30 of marital status or family size.

31
32 G. If a church or charge does not have a parsonage, and no provision has been made
33 to provide for a housing allowance, the church shall either:

- 34
35 1. Develop a plan to acquire a suitable parsonage with sufficient funding for the
36 purchase, or
37
38 2. Provide for an adequate housing allowance for the minister(s). (See IIIA and
39 Commission on Equitable Compensation Report.)
40

41 H. During the annual Charge Conference, the District Superintendent(s) may ask if the
42 housing allowance provided by the local church is in compliance with Conference
43 standards. Each local church is to be provided with a copy of the Clergy Housing
44 Standards and Policy.
45
46

1
2 Note: for the rest of the Policy (Sections II, III, IV, and Pastor-Parish Relations
3 Committee/Parsonage Committee Agreement), the changes are minor or refer to
4 changes to the 2016 Discipline from the 1984 Discipline.

5
6 These changes are noted below.

7
8 Section IIA1, in second sentence, due to 2016 Discipline: Replace 267.2f(4) with
9 258.2g)(16).

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

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

13
14 Section IIIC, in third sentence, due to 2016 Discipline: Replace 2537 and 2538 with
15 2544 and Conference Rule 12.061. Drop the words "recommendations and" from the title
(Recommendations and Policy)

16 Section II: delete the word "recommendations" in the Section title (Church-owned
Parsonage Recommendations)

17 Section IIA2: delete the word "suggested" in the first line (Suggested minimum number of
rooms)

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