

# Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response In the Church



BC Conference:  
The United Church of Canada  
4383 Rumble Street  
Burnaby, BC, V5J 2A2  
Phone (604) 431 0434  
Fax (604) 431 0439

<http://www.bc.united-church.ca>

For more information Contact:

Conference Personnel Minister: Treena Duncan:  
tduncan@bc.united-church.ca



British Columbia Conference  
The United Church of Canada:

## Understanding the Policy

The United Church of Canada developed and circulated a Sexual Abuse Policy (*Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation, Pastoral Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse*) for the whole of the church in 1993, revised in 1998, 2007 and again in 2011.

The policy is based on the following beliefs:

- that human sexuality is a gift from God to be respected, valued and celebrated;
- that power and authority is vested in leadership (both lay and clergy) to be exercised with the highest ethical and moral standards;

The Sexual Abuse Policy defines the following terms:

### Sexual Abuse

Any demeaning/exploitation behaviour of a sexual nature ranging from jokes, to unwanted touching, to forced sexual activities. Primarily understood as acts of power.

### Sexual Harassment

Any attempt to coerce an unwilling person into a sexual relationship, or to subject a person to unwanted sexual attention, or to punish a refusal to comply, or to reward compliance.

### Sexual Exploitation:

Taking advantage of the vulnerability of the victim for one's own pleasure or gain.



### Pastoral Sexual Misconduct

Sexual Activity or conduct in which ministry personnel take advantage of the vulnerability of a person under his/her pastoral care.

You may have experienced sexual misconduct if for example:

- Your bible study leader keeps telling sexual jokes before the start of class
- Your minister started to have sexual contact with you after you had been in counseling with him/her for several months
- The Chair of the Board frequently drops by your house late at night to drop off some church records, even after you indicate you are uncomfortable
- Your youth leader asked you out on a date and keeps asking you even though you said no
- A key member of the congregation insists that he wants a long hug from you, and you are uncomfortable with the contact.

### WHAT'S NEW

- Name of policy changed to reflect focus on "prevention and response"
- Dates of Formal Hearing to be set (not necessarily held) within six months of the request for the hearing, or consequences may result
- App.II: Criteria for Considering Suspension added
- Detail added to the complaint flow chart
- The full investigator's report, not a summary of it, is provided to parties

## What is the process?

What you can do if you think that you may be experiencing sexual harassment or sexual misconduct:

- **Contact** a Consultant with the Sexual Abuse Policy for an initial confidential conversation. You will find names and numbers listed in this brochure.
- **Believe** and trust yourself and your feelings.
- **Know** that the church through its consultants will honour and respect you. They will guide you through a confidential process to resolve the concerns.

The Consultant will explain the Sexual Abuse Policy to you, and review the concepts of misconduct and harassment. He/She will help you clarify the concerns that you bring forward, and will walk with you as you discern the next steps.

**What Does The Lord Require of You?**  
To seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.

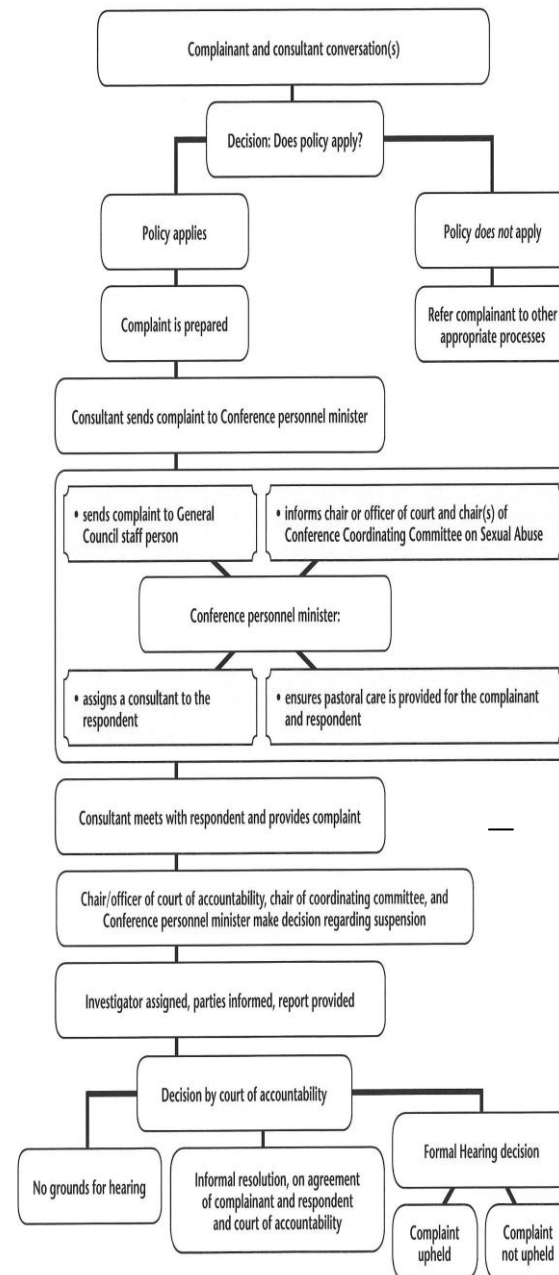
Micah 6:8



I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
"Whom shall I send?" ....I said  
"Here I am, Send Me!"

Isaiah 6:8

## Complaint Flow Chart



## BC Conference Prevention and Response Policy and Procedures Committee

Is a conference committee which is committed to ensuring that our church is a safe place to be for all. The committee educates, appoints and oversees appropriate consultants and officers of the court who may be involved with concerns of sexual abuse. It also regularly reviews the policy and procedures of the conference with respect to Sexual Misconduct. The committee Convenor, Graham Brownmiller, is available to discuss any concerns with you. Please do not hesitate to contact him for further information.

Graham Brownmiller (w) (604) 522-1606

[queens.minister@gmail.com](mailto:queens.minister@gmail.com)

OR

Treena Duncan (604) 431-0434 loc 304

[tduncan@bc.united-church.ca](mailto:tduncan@bc.united-church.ca)

## Child Abuse

British Columbia laws require that anyone who suspects child abuse, or has received a disclosure of child abuse, must report this to the Ministry for Children and Families, or to the police.

A 24-hour service is operated by the Ministry for Children and Families. Dial Zero and ask for Zenith 1234. The report is confidential.

## Youth and Young Adults

Consultants with special training for dealing with complaints involving youth and young adults. Contact Doris Kizinna, Conference staff for Youth and Young Adults at the BC Conference Office.

[dkizinna@bc.united-church.ca](mailto:dkizinna@bc.united-church.ca)

## Consultants

The Consultants are skilled in understanding the policy and issues of sexual abuse; ready to offer confidential counsel and advice in dealing with your concerns. They are appointed by the Committee.

### Lower Mainland (area code 604)

Connie Thompson, Abbotsford.....	853-2591
Rod MacKinnon, Abbotsford.....	823-4396
Marie Paul, Burnaby.....	377-3703
Brian Burke, Coquitlam/Burnaby.....	942-0022
Graham Brownmiller, New Westminster.	522-1606
Gary Gaudin, Richmond.....	277-4020
Neill McRae, Richmond.....(778)	888-1559
Liz Winkler, South Surrey.....	535-5871
Karen Millard, Squamish.....	892-5727
Laurel Bower, Vancouver.....	277-5377
Brenda Fawkes, Vancouver.....	437-0570
Sally McShane, Vancouver.....	681-8365

### Vancouver Island (area code 250)

Paula Ashby, Nanaimo.....	390-2513
Michael Caveny, Victoria.....	477-2089

### Okanagan & Kootenays (area code 250)

Martha Ashbaugh, Kamloops.....	376-6523
<b>Cariboo &amp; Prince Rupert (area code 250)</b>	
Rob Smith, Prince George.....	564-7822
Alyssa Anderson, Smithers.....	847-3333
Donna Ziegler, Terrace.....	635-6797
Dee McEachern, Valemont/McBride.....	566-0034

### Presbytery Staff)

Doris Kizinna, Youth & Young Adults (604)	431-0434
Ivy Thomas, Kamloops-Okanagan (250)	319-8355
George Meier, Kootenay.....(250)	358-7904
Bill Laurie, Comox-Nanaim/Victoria.(250)	716-1325
Marc Coulombe, Lower Mainland....(604)	431-0434

*If you need help in identifying a consultant, please contact Treena Duncan or Graham Brownmiller*