



Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church

2026 Version

The policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada is that harassment or workplace violence of any kind shall not be tolerated and will be addressed.

Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church

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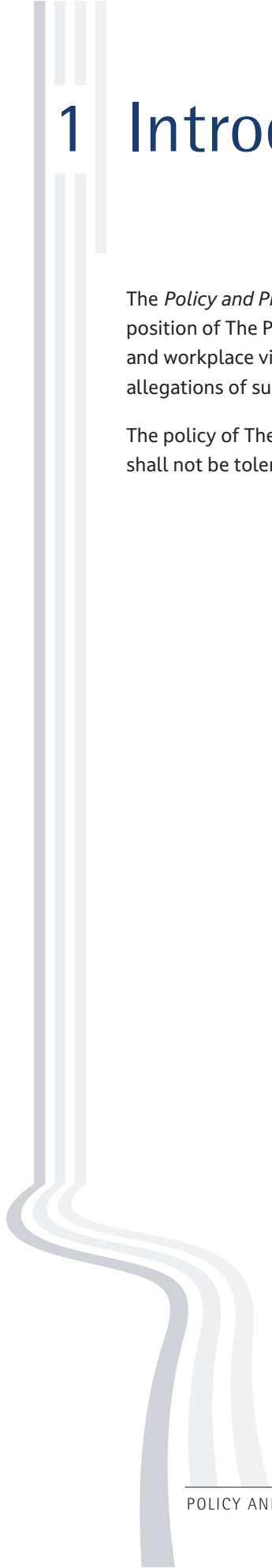
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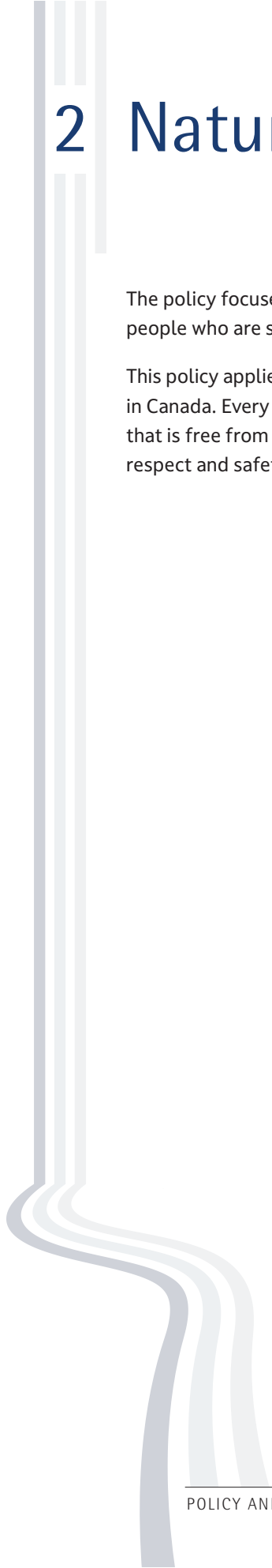
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1 Introduction

The *Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church* states the position of The Presbyterian Church in Canada on harassment (which includes bullying and discrimination) and workplace violence (which includes the threat of violence) and outlines the procedures to address allegations of such conduct when they arise within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada is that harassment or workplace violence of any kind shall not be tolerated and will be addressed.



2 Nature and Scope of the Policy

The policy focuses on the church's life: on the people who lead and serve, both paid and volunteer; on the people who are served by the church; and on the church's activities and ministries.

This policy applies to everyone who participates in the worship life and activities of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Every person has the right to expect to be treated with respect and to be safe in an environment that is free from violence and harassment. Every person is expected to behave in ways that offer the same respect and safety to others.

3 Responsibilities

Everyone who participates in the life of The Presbyterian Church in Canada has a responsibility to avoid engaging in behaviour that violates or interferes with the church's commitments under this policy.

Both church employers and church employees have responsibilities pertaining to harassment and workplace violence.

All church employees have the right to a safe and professional workplace. At the same time, all employees are expected to act professionally and to contribute to the church being a safe place for all. This applies to their conduct at work and at work-related meetings and events.

Church employers have a responsibility to educate their employees about this policy and expectations of behaviour at work and at work-related meetings and events. Employers must ensure their employees know how to respond if they experience harassment or workplace violence. The Presbyterian Church in Canada also has a responsibility to respond promptly to alleged violations of this policy.

Church employers should teach their congregations about harassment: what is harassment, and what does it look and feel like? Church employers must affirm the church's rejection of harassment and commitment to address all complaints of harassment it receives. Congregational awareness and understanding of the church's procedures to address harassment are also important. These conversations can help to create a safe environment where harassment is not experienced.

4 Understanding Harassment, Discrimination and Workplace Violence

The term *harassment* is defined slightly differently in each Canadian province and territory. Harassment means physical or verbal behaviours that are directed against a member, adherent, volunteer or employee of the church and that are unwelcome or should be known to be unwelcome and that cause humiliation, offence or distress to another person.

Harassment can occur when someone behaves in the following ways:

- makes unwelcome remarks or jokes about a person;
- threatens or intimidates a person;
- makes unwelcome physical contact with a person.

Harassment is usually behaviour that persists over time. However, serious one-time incidents can also create a *poisoned environment* and be considered harassment.

Bullying

Often the topic of bullying arises in discussion of harassment.

Bullying is the use of force, coercion, hurtful teasing or threat by one person to abuse, dominate aggressively or intimidate another person. Bullying requires a perceived imbalance of physical or social power: the bully has or is believed to have more power than the person whom the bully seeks to control. Through repeated, harmful behaviour, the bully maintains power over the intended target of the abuse, who increasingly finds it difficult to escape. The result is a victimized person caught in an abusive relationship.

Bullying takes different forms:

- Physical bullying uses physical force or aggression against others, for instance by hitting.
- Verbal bullying uses words to hurt others, for instance, by name-calling.
- Social or relational bullying seeks to intimidate or harm others by excluding them, spreading rumours or ignoring them.
- Cyberbullying uses electronic media to threaten, embarrass, intimidate or exclude others, including seeking to damage their reputation.

While there are similarities and differences in the dynamics of bullying and harassment, the *Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church* uses the term *harassment* to encompass both harassment and bullying.

Discrimination in Employment

Harassment may be a form of discrimination. For this reason, it is essential to understand discrimination as it is viewed in Canadian law. Discrimination is an action or a decision that treats a person or a group adversely for reasons related to certain personal characteristics protected by law.

Human rights codes in Canada identify personal characteristics that are protected from discrimination. This list varies by province and territory but generally includes characteristics such as race; colour; place of origin or ethnic or linguistic origin or nationality; religion, creed or religious belief; sex, including pregnancy; sexual orientation; marital or family status; gender identity; age; and disability. These personal characteristics are protected against discrimination; they are referred to as *prohibited grounds of discrimination*.

Human rights legislation protects people from discrimination based on one or more grounds in five parts of society—called social areas. The five social areas are employment, housing, services, unions and vocational associations, and contracts.

Since employment is one of the social areas where discrimination on prohibited grounds is not permitted, this places significant responsibility on the church as an employer. Church employers must take great care to ensure that the policies and procedures they follow in managing their employees conform with all applicable laws and accepted good-practices in their jurisdiction.

Workplace Harassment

The term *workplace* refers to any location, permanent or temporary, where an employee performs any work-related duty.

Workplace harassment can occur when someone behaves in the following ways:

- makes unwelcome remarks or jokes about a church employee;
- threatens or intimidates a church employee;
- makes unwelcome physical contact with a church employee.

In addition, since harassment may be a form of discrimination, workplace harassment can occur when someone behaves in the following ways:

- makes unwelcome remarks or jokes about a church employee, referring to any characteristic of the employee that is a prohibited ground of discrimination;
- threatens or intimidates a church employee because the employee has a characteristic that is a prohibited ground of discrimination.

Conduct is considered workplace harassment if it creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive work environment or interferes unreasonably with an employee's work performance.

As noted above, harassment is usually behaviour that persists over time. However, serious one-time incidents can also create a *poisoned environment* and be considered harassment.

Supervision of workers and the workplace is permitted. Employers or supervisors are permitted to take *reasonable actions* to manage and direct workers and the workplace. Examples of reasonable actions include constructive criticism of an employee; evaluating or monitoring an employee's performance or setting performance standards; and correction or discipline based on an employee's job performance. Such reasonable actions are not workplace harassment.

The different human rights codes in Canada—federal, provincial and territorial—include different lists of prohibited grounds of discrimination. The list provided above contains only the grounds that are common to all Canadian human rights codes. Some examples of additional grounds are social condition; receipt of public assistance; record of offences; political association; and gender expression. Furthermore, the definition of harassment may vary across jurisdictions. Therefore, individuals are encouraged to review the legislation that applies in their jurisdiction. When addressing complaints under this policy, church courts, ministry boards and other church employers will take great care to review the applicable federal, provincial or territorial human rights codes.

Racial Harassment

In 2008, the General Assembly approved the following definition of racial harassment:

Racial harassment is defined as unwanted or unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct related to one's race, culture, nationality or ethnicity. It causes offence, intimidation and/or distress to the individual to whom it is directed. Such conduct may have the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's full participation in the life and work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (A&P 2008, p. 220–27, 20).

Since 2023, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has been directed to use the Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment in the Church whenever a complaint of racial harassment is received (A&P 2023, p. 120–131, 24).

Sexual Harassment

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has a policy and procedures for addressing sexual harassment. First adopted by the General Assembly in 1993, the *Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment* affirms the church's zero tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Further, it commits the church to taking all complaints of sexual abuse or sexual harassment seriously and addressing them according to the procedures outlined in the policy.

In the *Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment*, sexual abuse is understood to include sexual harassment, which is defined in these terms:

- engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome, including repeated sexual remarks or physical contact that is degrading;
- making a sexual solicitation or advance where the person making the solicitation or advance is in a position to confer, grant or deny a benefit to another;
- making or carrying out a threat by a person in authority against a person who has rejected a sexual advance from the person in authority.

The church is directed to use the *Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment* whenever the alleged harassment includes behaviour of a sexual nature, such as improper or unwelcome comment or conduct pertaining to sex, sexual orientation or gender (which includes gender identity and expression). In these cases, the *Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church* is not used.

Workplace Violence

Workplace violence is the use of physical force that causes or could cause physical injury, or the threat of such physical force. Many provinces and territories in Canada have specific definitions of workplace violence. When addressing complaints under this policy, church courts, ministry boards and other church employers will take great care to review the applicable federal, provincial or territorial human rights codes.

Where the church employer is or becomes aware of the presence of (or potential for) domestic violence that may expose a worker to physical injury or harm at their church workplace, the church employer will take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect the individual at threat of experiencing violence resulting from domestic violence. The Presbyterian Church in Canada encourages any person with knowledge of actual or potential domestic violence against themselves or any worker to report the threat to the worker's church employer. While some disclosure of personal information may be required in such a situation, such disclosure will be limited to what is reasonably necessary to protect the worker from physical injury.

Summary: When this Policy Applies

The *Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church* applies when two criteria are met.

1. The person who allegedly demonstrated or experienced harassment or workplace violence is a member, adherent, volunteer or employee of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
2. The alleged behaviour occurs within the church's environment of work, worship, service or study.

The kinds of alleged behaviour covered by this policy are the following:

- harassment, which is understood to encompass bullying and discrimination;
- workplace harassment, which is understood to encompass bullying and discrimination;
- racial harassment;
- workplace violence.

The sole exception is sexual harassment. When sexual harassment is alleged to have occurred within the church's environment of work, worship, service or study, the church addresses the complaint using the *Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment*. In these cases, the *Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church* does not apply.

5 Theological Basis

In the New Testament, the church is likened to the body of Christ and to a flock of sheep under the guidance of Christ's shepherding. John Calvin compared the church to a mother nurturing her child. (*Institutes* 4.1.6).

Images such as these imply that the church's life should be characterized by the highest expression of Christian fellowship—a standard articulated clearly in the teachings of Christ and the epistles of the early church. What this means is that the church should be a safe place to exercise, share and receive ministry.

While Christians aspire to embody the welcoming community Christ desires, at the same time we confess that we are sinners. Often our lives do not reflect the Creator's love. When this happens, the church fails to live as Christ intends.

Regretfully, experience teaches that harassment, bullying and discrimination take place in the congregations, ministries, courts and committees of the church. Responding promptly, carefully and appropriately to harassment of any kind helps the church become the body Christ calls it to be where healing and wholeness can be found.

6 Guiding Principles

All complaints of harassment, discrimination and workplace violence will be taken seriously. Every complaint will be received, investigated and acted on in accordance with the terms of this policy and applicable laws as resolution and remedy is sought.

The person complained against is always presumed innocent until the procedures for investigation and decisions about the complaint are completed. If the church body addressing the complaint cannot conclude from the evidence on the balance of probabilities that the actions did occur as alleged, then the church body must decide that the complaint cannot be substantiated. In simple terms, the person complained against will be found innocent. Any complaint must be substantiated before discipline can occur.

Allegations of sexual harassment will be addressed using the *Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment*.

Retaliation against a person who becomes involved in the harassment procedures in good faith is itself a violation of the *Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church* and will not be tolerated.

Persons making a complaint of harassment under the *Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church* retain the right to apply to a Human Rights Tribunal or to pursue any other available legal avenues.

The church is called to implement this policy in the spirit of prayerfulness, love, affection and humility, under the continual illumination of the Holy Spirit as it protects people and seeks healing and wholeness.

Every effort will be made to reach a resolution that is satisfactory to the complainant and the respondent, whenever possible.

Together with the theological basis (Section 5), these guiding principles form the basis for the *Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment and Workplace Violence in the Church*. Therefore, the policy can be understood properly only in light of them.

7 When Harassment, Discrimination or Workplace Violence Is Experienced

The immediate response to an experience of harassment, discrimination or workplace violence is not always to make a complaint under this policy. In some situations, other considerations might take precedence.

Safety from Violence is a Priority

When violence is experienced or witnessed, the correct immediate response is to call 911. Further responses must wait until everyone is safe and any needed medical care has been provided.

Church Procedures Suspended During Police Investigation

A person who believes they have been the victim of harassment, discrimination or workplace violence is always free to contact the police if desired. When a police investigation is undertaken, church procedures that apply to non-employees will be suspended. However, church procedures may proceed simultaneously with a police investigation if the allegations arise from potential harassment, discrimination or violence by, among or directed towards church employees.

Direct Conversation with Alleged Offender is Possible

Sometimes a person who believes they have been the victim of harassment or discrimination may feel reasonably confident that resolution can be achieved through direct conversation with the alleged offender. For instance, perhaps the person does not believe there is an imbalance of power with the alleged offender and further, the person believes that they are unaware of the impact of their behaviour. As a result, the person wants an opportunity to talk directly with the alleged offender and feels it is safe to do so.

Such direct conversation should be attempted only at the request of the complainant. If the alleged offender agrees to the meeting, the time and place should be conducive to respectful speaking and listening. Both parties must have a support person present who has been arranged by the investigating body in consultation with the parties.

While direct conversation between the complainant and the alleged offender may be possible, there are situations when it is neither safe nor practical. Neither party should be pressured to participate.

When resolution by direct conversation is not attempted or when the person who believes they are the victim of harassment or discrimination is not satisfied with the outcome, the person may make a complaint under this policy.

Human Rights Tribunal and Other Legal Avenues

Persons making a complaint of harassment under this policy retain the right to apply to a Human Rights Tribunal or to pursue any other available legal avenues.

8 An Overview of the Complaint Process

The **complainant** is the person making the complaint about being a victim of harassment, discrimination or workplace violence.

The **respondent** is the person alleged to have engaged in harassment, discrimination or workplace violence. The respondent may also be referred to as the alleged harasser or alleged offender.

The **complaint** sets out the details of the alleged conduct. The complaint is written, where possible. Oral complaints are also permitted, but the complainant must be required to review and affirm a written summary of their oral complaint before the investigation process commences.

Which Church Body Addresses the Complaint?

Responsibility for addressing the complaint rests with the church body to whom the respondent is accountable. Regardless of the church context in which the behaviour is alleged to have occurred, the complaint is addressed by the church body to whom the respondent is accountable.

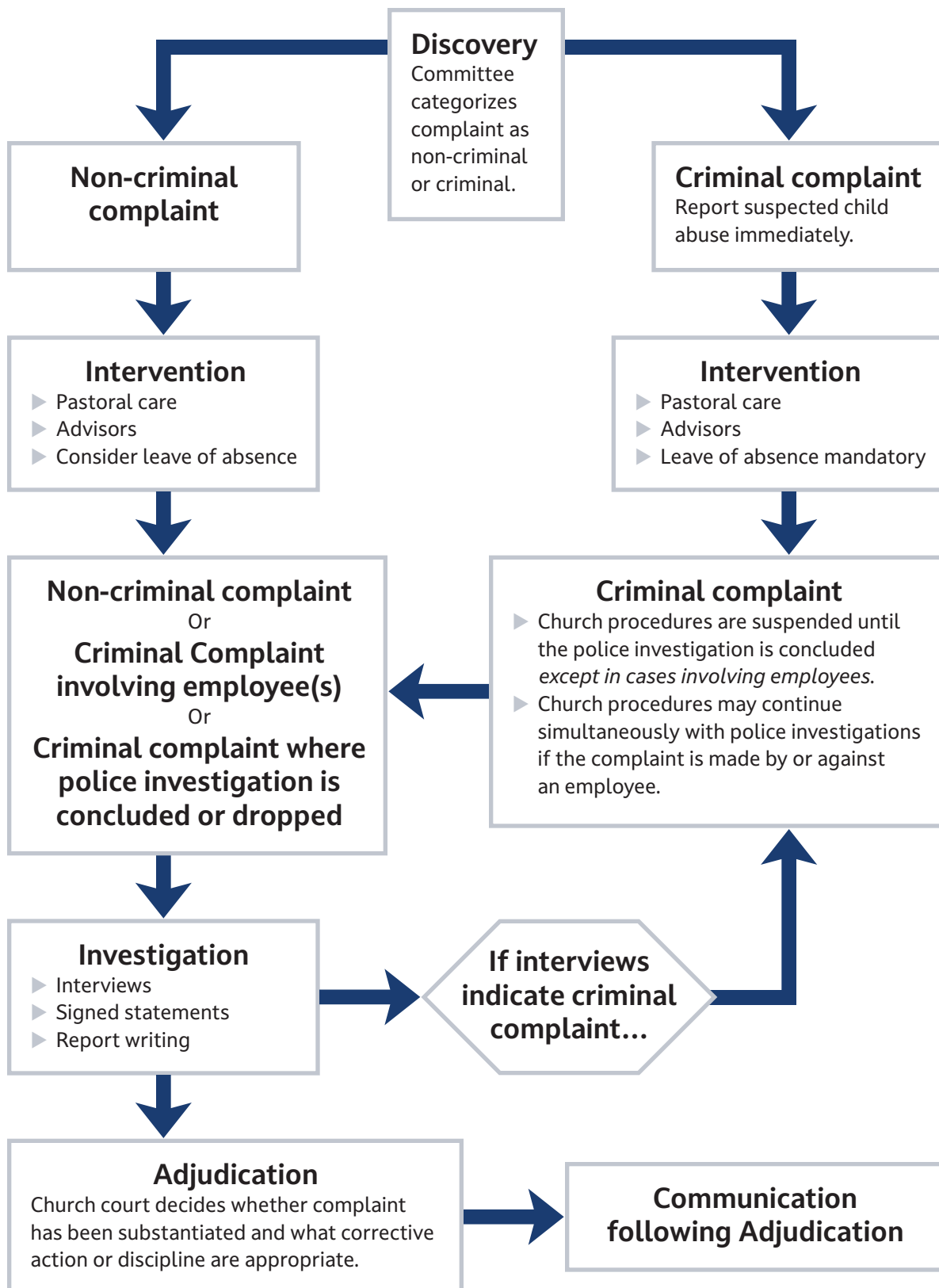
- Allegations about the conduct of a minister are addressed by the minister's presbytery. The complaint is presented to the clerk or moderator of the presbytery.
- Allegations about the conduct of a congregational member, adherent or office-bearer are addressed by the congregation's Session. The complaint is presented to the clerk or moderator of the Session.
- When allegations about the conduct of a member, adherent or office-bearer of a congregation are made by a minister of the congregation, the complaint is handled differently. In such cases, the complaint is addressed by the minister's presbytery. The complaint is presented to the clerk or moderator of the presbytery.
- Allegations about the conduct of a lay church employee are addressed by the governing body of the church employer or by its designate. For example, allegations about the conduct of a lay staff person working in a congregation would be addressed by the congregation's Session or by a committee authorized by the session to make employment decisions on behalf of the Session. The complaint is presented to the employee's supervisor.

Steps in Complaint Process

The church body addressing the complaint bears responsibility for completion of the following tasks:

- A. receiving the complaint;
- B. investigating the complaint;
- C. deciding whether harassment, discrimination or workplace violence has occurred;
- D. deciding on corrective action or discipline, when harassment, discrimination or workplace violence is found to have occurred;
- E. communicating the results of the complaint process;
- F. keeping records of the proceedings.

Procedures Flow Chart



9 Procedures

A. Receiving the Complaint

The complaint is written, where possible. Oral complaints are also permitted, but the complainant must be required to review and affirm a written summary of their oral complaint before the investigation process commences.

The complaint should contain the following information:

- complainant name and contact information;
- respondent name, position within church and contact information;
- witness name and contact information (if any witnesses);
- description of situations or incidents, including dates, times, frequency, locations;
- supporting documents: list of documents in possession of a witness or the respondent.

The complaint is presented to the clerk or moderator of a church court or to the supervisor of a church employee.

As noted above (Section 7), church procedures involving non-employees are suspended during any police investigation. However, church procedures that apply when employees are involved proceed while police procedures are conducted.

B. Investigating the Complaint

The person receiving the complaint forwards it to the investigating committee.

When an investigating committee is not already in place, the church body addressing the complaint appoints one as soon as possible.

The makeup of the investigating committee is as follows:

- The committee has at least 3 members.
- At least one is a member of the court of jurisdiction.
- The alleged offender is not a member of the committee.
- The alleged offender does not supervise directly any member of the committee.
- Committee members are able to be objective about the individuals and the information they will consider while investigating the complaint.
- Committee members are familiar with this policy and may have received training in its use.

■ Investigation Timeframe

The investigating committee begins its work promptly.

Since cases vary in complexity, some investigations may be completed within a few days, while others may require more time. Every effort should be made to conduct the investigation and complete the report within 30 days of receiving the complaint.

■ Safety

Steps should be taken to ensure the safety and comfort of the complainant. This could involve imposing the requirement that no contact occurs between the complainant and the respondent during the investigation.

If further offence is considered a risk, the respondent may be removed from the court or event or temporarily suspended, with pay, from employment. It should be made clear that any such restrictions are understood to be on a *without prejudice* basis: this means that there is no assumption that the respondent has committed the alleged behaviour.

■ Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is made available to the complainant and the respondent. The investigating committee makes sure that each party has or knows how to access any pastoral support they might want. No member of the investigating committee is permitted to serve as pastoral caregiver to the complainant or to the respondent.

■ Help with Understanding Complaint Procedures

The investigating committee shall explain the church's complaint procedures to the complainant and to the respondent as it meets separately with them. The investigating committee will also ensure that each party knows how to access any additional help with understanding the complaint procedures they might want.

When a respondent is suspended temporarily from employment, the church employer needs to be provided with appropriate information in a timely manner. For instance, a presbytery investigating a complaint about the conduct of a congregational minister may wish to appoint a member of the presbytery (someone other than the interim moderator or a member of the investigating committee) to explain the *without prejudice* basis of the temporary suspension. Similarly, a Session may wish to appoint one of the elders to handle communication with the congregation about the temporary suspension of a lay staff person.

■ Confidentiality

The investigation will be handled in a confidential manner.

Disclosure of information will occur only when it is necessary for the purposes of investigating or taking corrective action or discipline or when it is otherwise required by law.

■ Standard of Proof

The information gathered by the committee is assessed according to a *balance of probabilities*. If there are differences in the description of events given by the complainant, the respondent and any witnesses, what would a reasonable person believe took place? How credible or reliable are the different descriptions of the events?

When deciding whether particular behaviour constitutes harassment, discrimination or workplace violence, the investigatory process must consider the impact the behaviour has on the person

against whom it is directed. The intention of the person carrying out the behaviour does not determine whether the action is harassment, discrimination or workplace violence.

■ Investigation Steps

The steps of the investigation are as follows:

- Collect and review relevant documents throughout the process.
- Interview the complainant.
- Interview the respondent.
- Give the respondent an opportunity to respond to the specific allegations in the complaint.
- Interview the complainant again, presenting the respondent's written response to the complaint.
- Interview witnesses separately.
- Interview both the complainant and the respondent again after conducting any witness interviews.
- Take appropriate notes during interviews.
- Prepare a report.

■ Guidelines for Interviews

The committee interviews the complainant, the respondent and any other persons the committee believes to have corroborative evidence or information about the complaint. The committee meets separately with each person interviewed.

The sequence of interviews is as follows:

- The committee meets with the complainant. A written statement of the complaint is prepared, by the complainant or by the committee. The written complaint is signed by the complainant.
- The committee meets with the respondent and the written complaint is presented. The committee hears the response of the respondent. A written statement of the respondent's response to the complaint is prepared and signed by the respondent.
- The committee meets with the complainant again. The respondent's written response to the complaint is presented. The committee hears the complainant's response.
- After conducting any witness interviews, normally the committee interviews the complainant and the respondent again.

■ Investigation Report

The committee meets to review the information it has received and to prepare its report to the church body addressing the complaint. The individuals who have been interviewed (complainant, respondent or witness) are not permitted to attend these meetings.

The report summarizes the following information:

- the steps of the investigation;
- a clear summary of the complaint, including all specific allegations;
- the respondent's response to the complaint;
- the evidence gathered, including a summary of witness statements.

The report contains recommendations to the body responsible for addressing the complaint. In its recommendations, the investigating committee provides its opinion about whether harassment, discrimination or workplace violence has occurred. If the committee believes that the alleged behaviour has occurred, the committee recommends what corrective action or discipline might be appropriate for the respondent.

C. Deciding whether Harassment, Discrimination or Workplace Violence Has Occurred

The church body responsible for addressing the complaint meets privately (in camera) to receive and consider the full report of the investigating committee, including its recommendations.

All decisions pertaining to the complaint require majority vote by the members of the church body who attend the meeting.

The church body decides whether the complaint has been substantiated, choosing between two outcomes:

- The complaint has been substantiated. In this case, the church body is satisfied that the complaint has been established on a balance of probabilities.
- The complaint has not been substantiated. In this case, the church body is satisfied that the complaint has not been established on a balance of probabilities.

If, on a balance of probabilities, the church body decides that the complaint has been substantiated, then the church body moves to considerations of corrective action, discipline and any remedial or pastoral action that may be necessary.

If, on a balance of probabilities, the church body decides that the complaint has not been substantiated, then it declares the complaint to be dismissed. Even in the case of an unsubstantiated complaint, it may be appropriate to provide pastoral care to those involved.

D. Deciding on Corrective Action or Discipline

When the complaint has been substantiated, the church body decides what corrective action or discipline for the respondent will be imposed.

The person found to have engaged in a breach of this policy will be disciplined appropriately. Corrective action or discipline must be reasonable and proportionate to the breach that has been found to have occurred. Corrective action or discipline may include any necessary steps to prevent a recurrence.

For church employees, corrective action or discipline may include a suspension or dismissal from employment; ineligibility for a raise or bonus; a change in reporting or management structure; the requirement to offer an apology; agreement to take training; an oral or written covenant outlining future behaviour; or other remedy.

For members or adherents of The Presbyterian Church in Canada who are not church employees, corrective action or discipline may include suspension or termination of roles the respondent has been undertaking as a volunteer in the church; the requirement to offer an apology; agreement to take training; an oral or written covenant outlining future behaviour; or other remedy.

In cases of violence or serious harassment, it may be appropriate to direct the individual not to participate in any church activities.

E. Communicating Results of Complaint Process

Both the complainant and the respondent are informed of the decisions made by the church body about the complaint and any corrective action or discipline to be imposed on the respondent.

The church body addressing the complaint will offer a means to resolve the matter in a manner that is acceptable to both the complainant and the respondent, if possible.

Both the complainant and the respondent have the right to initiate a disciplinary case if they are unsatisfied with the results of the complaint process and any corrective action or discipline imposed on the respondent. The Book of Forms outlines these steps (Book of Forms 345ff, with the provision that sections 350–53 do not apply).

F. Keeping Records of Proceedings

The church body responsible for addressing the complaint shall keep in a secure, locked location and format all records of all complaints of harassment, discrimination or workplace violence.

These records will include the following documents:

- a copy of the complaint;
- a record of the investigation, including notes;
- copies of witness statements, if taken;
- a copy of the investigation report;
- minutes of the church body recording its decisions about the complaint and any corrective action or discipline to be imposed on the respondent;
- a copy of the results of the complaint process, as provided to the complainant and the respondent.

The church body shall keep all records of all complaints of harassment, discrimination and workplace violence indefinitely. This requirement applies in all cases, regardless of the decisions made by the church body about the complaint. The church body keeps records indefinitely when the complaint has been substantiated, with or without imposition of corrective action or discipline, and when the complaint has not been substantiated.

All records remain confidential. Disclosure is permitted only as necessary for investigation, for corrective action or discipline or as required by law.

G. Reporting Substantiated Complaint of Workplace Violence

A church body that has substantiated a complaint of workplace violence will report the results (without releasing the names of the parties) to the Life and Mission Agency, which will initiate a review of the policy.

10 Church Support for the Policy

The church's support for this policy includes providing advice and training for investigating committees when requested; protecting people who make complaints in good faith; considering discipline for malicious complaints; training employees and volunteers; and reviewing the policy.

Advice and Training for Investigating Committees

Members of the investigating committee are permitted to contact national office staff for advice and training. Such requests are not required.

No Retaliation

The church will not tolerate retaliation against anyone for making a complaint of harassment, discrimination or workplace violence in good faith; for reporting suspected harassment, discrimination or workplace violence; or for cooperating in an investigation.

Regardless of whether harassment, discrimination or workplace violence is found to have occurred, such retaliation is a violation of this policy.

Malicious Complaint

Anyone who makes a malicious complaint under this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Training for Employees and Volunteers

This policy will be read at least annually by Sessions, ministry boards, presbyteries, synods, camps, colleges and standing committees of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

All employees and volunteers of the church are to receive training on the contents of this policy. Training will be refreshed every three years.

Congregations, ministries, church courts and colleges are enjoined to provide information about this policy on their webpage or other display board, including instruction on what to do and whom to contact if harassment, discrimination or workplace violence is experienced or observed.

Policy Review

The Life and Mission Agency Committee will conduct a review as necessary to ensure this policy continues to comply with applicable legislation.

In addition, this policy will be reviewed by the Life and Mission Agency Committee after receiving a report of any substantiated complaint of workplace violence.



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