

The Board of Ordained Ministry

Missouri Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Plagiarism Policy

Adopted September
2017

As Christians, we are called to be the body of Christ in our world. As clergy, we are called to exhibit the highest levels of professional and intellectual integrity as part of our witness for Christ. The Missouri Board of Ordained Ministry understands plagiarism to be a violation of our covenant with one another and our covenant with God to offer the best of our gifts and grace for ministry.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, to plagiarize is to:

1. steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own
2. use another's production without crediting the source
3. commit literary theft

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/plagiarize>

“In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward” (http://www.plagiarism.org/plag_article_what_is_plagiarism.html).

According to Plagiarism.org, all of the following are considered plagiarism:

1. turning in someone else's work as your own
2. copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
3. failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
4. giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
5. changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
6. copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

http://www.plagiarism.org/plag_article_what_is_plagiarism.html

We believe plagiarism is a serious offence and it will be treated as such. We recognize 3 broad levels of plagiarism:

1. Failure to provide quotation and endnotes properly.

Consequence: The clergy candidate may be allowed to interview with the Board but must address the issues of proper crediting of sources.

2. Failure to notate paraphrases, verbatim material, or ideas taken directly from another source.

Consequence: The clergy candidate must meet with the Executive Committee of the Board, the invitation to interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry may be withdrawn for the year, and the candidate may be considered for discontinuance.

3. Using so many words and/or ideas from another source(s) that your own material is difficult to define.

Consequence: A violation at this level will be considered a major ethical and covenant violation. The clergy candidate must meet with the Executive Committee of the Board and in most cases will be discontinued. Other disciplinary consequences may also be considered.

The Board of Ordained Ministry will utilize iThenticate to verify that papers were not plagiarized.

PLAGIARISM POLICY FORM

Please read the enclosed plagiarism policy and sign the statement below and return to the Clergy Relations Coordinator, Board of Ordained Ministry:

I have read the policy on plagiarism and understand it. I understand that plagiarism will not be tolerated and is a violation of my Christian ethic and covenant. The work that I will submit to the Board of Ordained Ministry will be my own and I will credit sources appropriately.

Signed

Date

Print Name