



District Restoration Plan
2018-2019 Assembly Year

The goal of the restoration process is to ensure proper care is given to both the minister and his/her family when a moral failing has taken place. It is the district's desire to be redemptive while at the same time ensuring the character of Christ and the church.

Scriptural Mandate:

Galatians 6:1-2

1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

It should be noted that there are Three Key Components to Complete Restoration:

(Note: Recovery is different from Restoration)

1. The Recovery Phase

The process of assisting a minister relieved, voluntarily or otherwise, of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy, and his or her spouse and family in the recovery of health and wholeness.

2. The Recovery Effort

The North Central Ohio District wishes to establish a bond with the minister and his/her family to love and care for them as Christ cares for the church. This bond is best facilitated through our district Recovery Team. This Recovery Team is your link to assistance and support on behalf of the district. The Recovery Team will assist with items such as:

Counseling

Financial Advice/Resourcing

Peer Support

Legal Advice (Where Needed)

Process For Recovery

Support and Care for the Family

Plan for Restoration

The NCO District will provide counseling support up to 6 months.

(Duration/Frequency to be determined by counselor)

A complete list of approved district professional counselors can be found at:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/9090f2_bd7cd59a427046e0bf7f1af2e8df7125.pdf

3. Reinstatement Request

Upon Approval of the Recovery Team, a minister under discipline may apply for reinstatement of the rights and privileges of being a minister after a period of two years. Otherwise no application may be made for reinstatement until the minister has actively participated in the recovery process for at least four years.

Manual Provisions For Reinstatement: (540-540.12)

540.6. Application for Restoration to Good Standing. A minister having been relieved of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy may apply for restoration to good standing and the return of his or her credential subject to the eligibility requirements of paragraph 540.7. Such application must be submitted to the district superintendent at least six months prior to the next scheduled meeting of the district assembly and must comply with the district-approved plan. The district superintendent shall acknowledge receipt of the application within 30 days.

540.7. A minister may apply for restoration to good standing and the return of his or her credential provided the recovery team assigned to the minister favorably supports such application and can attest that the minister has participated actively and consistently for at least two years in a recovery process under its supervision. A minister who, in his or her judgment, has endeavored to participate actively and consistently for at least four years in such a recovery process may apply for restoration to good standing with or without the favorable support of the application by the recovery team. When a minister under discipline has pursued participation in recovery from the outset, the minimum time required before applying for restoration to good standing shall commence with the earlier of the first official meeting of the minister with the recovery team or 60 days after the date a recovery team was initially assigned to the minister. In cases where a minister postponed or interrupted his or her participation in the recovery process, the district superintendent in consultation with the recovery team shall determine whether the minimum time required before applying for restoration to good standing has been satisfied. (538, 540.3)

District Recovery Team:

540.2 A recovery team is responsible for facilitating the recovery of the health and well-being of the minister and of the minister's spouse and family. It has neither the responsibility nor the authority to determine whether the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy should be reinstated to the minister. Insofar as the situation permits, the duties of a recovery team include:

1. extending care to the minister's spouse and family as well as to the minister;
2. providing clarity to the minister and spouse on the process and purpose of recovery;
3. coordinating the combined efforts of the minister, the district, and any congregation involved in developing a plan to address financial, housing, medical, emotional, spiritual, and other needs that typically arise with urgency in situations where misconduct has become evident;
4. implementing the district-approved plan, including reporting regularly on its own efforts and on the status of the progress of the minister and his or her spouse and family in the recovery of health and well-being;
5. communicating to the minister and his or her spouse, to the district superintendent, and to the appropriate district board when it judges its work is nearing completion or has progressed as far as can be expected;

6. submitting to the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry or appointed committee responsible for considering reinstatement, upon application by the minister for reinstatement of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy, its recommendation as to whether consideration for restoration of the minister to good standing is appropriate. (540.8)

Please Note: Your Specific Recovery Team will be assigned by the district and will be facilitated by a Peer Support Pastor.

Your Specific Expectations:

1. Maintain a daily or weekly personal journal that chronicles your events, experiences, emotions, and insights throughout the restoration process. Include significant accomplishments, set-backs, people, scriptures, breakthroughs, relationships, etc. Include entries after each counseling session, noting what was discussed and any action steps that come from counseling.
2. Self-Assessment Annually (see format below). First one to be completed _____.
3. Sessions with a professional counselor, meeting at least monthly. (Two times a month preferred with progress reports from counselor)
4. Monthly Meetings with Peer Support Pastor/Recovery Team. Follow up with written reflection by noting progress and any changes or additions to the restoration plan.
5. Read and reflect on scripture and other books assigned by Recovery Team. Provide reading reports (see format below).
6. Monthly written report to Peer Support Pastor which will be shared with Recovery Team.
7. Annual update (written) provided to District Superintendent, Rev. Wendell Brown. (ncods@mvnu.edu)

Meeting Schedule:

1. Initial Meeting including Social Work intake (within two weeks of incident)
2. Monthly Meeting with Peer Support Pastor/Members of Recovery Team
3. Annual Meeting with Full Assigned Recovery Team
4. Possible Completion of Recovery Phase (After 2nd Annual Meeting With Recovery Team)
5. Meet with Credentials Board Per Their Schedule For Possible Reinstatement

Recommended reading:

Losing It All and Finding Yourself by Richard Dortch

A Resilient Life by Gordon McDonald

Ordering Your Private World by Gordon McDonald

Rebuilding Your Broken World by Gordon McDonald

The Utter Relief of Holiness by John Eldridge

When Good Men Are Tempted by Bill Perkins



Annual Self Check Survey

SELF-CHECK SURVEY

1. **SIN.** What is my attitude now toward:

- a. My sin?
- b. Repentance?
- c. Restitution?
- d. Forgiveness?
- e. Grace?

Ask yourself the following:

- f. Do I understand the scriptural dynamics of sin's course?
- g. Do I understand the course of my particular lifestyle that allowed me to fall?
- h. What will I do to ensure such failure will not recur?
- i. Do I understand the spiritual and relational dynamics of sin's consequences?
- j. Am I more concerned about physical survival than I am about spiritual healing?
- k. Am I sorry about my sin or merely sorry I got caught?

2. **AUTHORITY.** What is my attitude now toward:

- a. Spiritual authority in the church?
- b. Following the expectations of those in positions of leadership and authority?
- c. Submission and humility as evidences of healing?

Ask yourself:

- d. How have I demonstrated submission and repentance?
- e. What are my thoughts about those in authority?
- f. Have I protected my ego with half-truths, self-pity, and comparisons?
- g. Am I truly grateful for the opportunity to be restored?

3. **THE CHURCH.** What understanding have I shown of the effects of my actions upon:

- a. The Lord Jesus Christ?
- b. His church in general?
- c. The church I served in leadership?
- d. The community that was impacted by my failure?
- e. The Church of the Nazarene as a Movement?
- f. My fellow ministers who must struggle with their sense of sadness, embarrassment, confusion, and responsibility?
- g. The lay leadership and my successors who will have to pick up the pieces and minister to a hurting body?

4. **MY FAMILY.** How aware have I become of the damage done to:

- a. My spouse?
- b. My children?
- c. My extended family?
- d. The families represented by the person involved?

5. **MY SPOUSE.** Ask yourself:

- a. Do I understand the emotional and mental consequence of my action on my spouse?
- b. What am I willing to do to help repair the damage?
- c. Am I willing to be patient and walk through the healing process of my spouse even if it takes years?
- d. Am I willing to take counsel involving time and money to strengthen my relationship?
- e. Am I willing to be honest if I sense we are living in denial and repressing dangerous emotions?

f. Will I forego the temptation for a quick-fix and an easy solution to see my marriage truly restored?

6. **MY CHILDREN.** Taking into consideration their age and ability to understand, answer the following:

a. What kind of communication have I had with our children prior to and following my failure?

b. Have I sincerely apologized to them and asked for their forgiveness?

c. Have I reaffirmed my convictions of Christian value and morality?

d. Will I learn to be a better parent and companion through this time of restoration and healing?

7. **MYSELF.** Looking deep within answer these questions:

a. How have I dealt with the shame and guilt of my exposed failure and sin?

b. Are there unhealthy attitudes of self-hate, self-justification, low self-esteem, etc., lingering?

c. Am I too self-assured that this could not happen again?

d. Have I developed the ability to communicate my weaknesses to my companion or peers for their help?

e. Will I be aware of the path that led to my sin and be better equipped to avoid it, or will I look for opportunities to more discreetly repeat it?

8. **MY PARTNER IN SIN (In cases of sexual misconduct).** Answer the following:

a. How well have I dealt with the feelings of attraction I had for this person?

b. What steps of contrition, confession, and renunciation have I taken?

c. How completely and cleanly have I severed all contact with this person?

d. How will I deal with appealing memories and fantasies?

e. What steps of confession, apology, and restitution have I attempted with the family?

9. **MORALITY AND MARRIAGE.** Study the following from biblical perspective:

a. Morality and integrity as evidences of godly character.

b. The process of patient endurance and self-discipline as the course of character-building.

c. The power of example in morality and marriage.

10. **MY COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS, AND PEERS.** In view of my exposed failure, how am I dealing with the following:

- a. Feelings of distance and estrangement from my former colleagues in the ministry and friends?
- b. Feelings that I am being talked about and avoided?
- c. Feelings that my punishment is too harsh and unnecessary?
- d. Feelings that nobody cares what happens to me or my family?
- e. A sense of discouragement that I could never return to full-time ministry?

Ask yourself the following:

- a. Can I accept the responsibility for my actions and not lose heart?
- b. Can I understand how difficult it is for people to know how to relate to me at this time?
- c. Can I trust the grace of God in others as well as in myself to know that restoration can be full and complete?
- d. Can I believe that God can make even this, which is not good, work together for good, even the insensitivity that I feel people have toward me and my need?
- e. Am I willing to take the initiative to rebuild bridges of relationship and communication?
- f. Am I willing to live with the reality that some will never accept my restoration?

11. **THE LORD.** Answer the following about your relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ through this time:

- a. Has my relationship to Jesus deepened or waned?
- b. Can I hear Him speak to me, and do I have confidence to share these things with others humbly?
- c. Does the Word of God have more attraction to me and has my devotional life grown more important?
- d. Do I have confidence, when I pray, that the Lord hears me and does not refuse my petitions because I have failed?
- e. What Scripture passages have been most meaningful to me in this time of restoration?
- f. Have I studied passages relating to moral failure rather than avoiding them fearing condemnation?
- g. Are God's grace, the cross of Jesus Christ, and the atoning blood of Christ of greater value to me now?

12. **THE MINISTRY.** In view of your discipline and pending restoration, what is your response to the following:

- a. What plan of defense have I formulated against Satan and this sin that caused me to fall?
- b. What can I share with others to help them avoid the pitfalls that tripped me?
- c. What has this period of my life taught me about:

The ministry in and ministry outside of the pulpit?

The needs of those who, like me, occupy the pew week after week?

Strengths or weaknesses within the church that can be implemented or changed?

- d. As I contemplate the future and my role of ministry, how will I deal with this matter of my discipline and restoration?

Assignment:

1. Work systematically through the above items at least 1x a year recording on paper your responses and comparing them through the process of your restoration. Evaluate whether or not you are growing in understanding and self-honesty.



Restoration Minister's Monthly Report

Respond specifically to the following areas. Send a copy to your Peer Support Pastor and district superintendent.

1. Describe your devotional patten in the following areas:

- a. Prayer
- b. Bible Reading
- c. Journaling

Circle and comment about which of these spiritual exercises you are finding most beneficial:

Bible Reading	Confession	Retreats	Spiritual Reading	Prayer
Small Groups	Journaling	Fasting	Bodily Exercise	Other

2. As applicable, please describe your relationship with:

- a. Spouse:
- b. Children:
- c. Pastor:
- d. Church Family:

3. What are you learning spiritually? What do you sense the Lord saying to you?

4. What are your concerns, spiritual or otherwise, about which we may pray with you?

5. Please describe your feelings about your involvement in this restoration ministry.

6. Did you complete your supervising pastor's homework assignment? Yes No

7. List dates of meetings with your:

- a. Counselor:
- b. Peer Support Pastor:
- c. District:

8. If secularly employed, employer's name, phone, and hours worked.

Signature

Date



Reading Report

Please complete a separate reading report for each item reported upon from the reading assigned by the Peer Support Pastor. Please give a copy of this report to the Peer Support Pastor.

Your Name:

Title of Material Reviewed: _____

Date Assigned: _____ Date Completed: _____

Pages Read _____

Summary of Impressions, themes, insights from this material: