

## **ON LICENSED MINISTRY**

An Amendment to the Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry  
Accepted by Southwest Regional Council, March 2, 2001

### Background Information:

The Committees on Ministry for the North Texas Area and the Trinity-Brazos Area of the Southwest Region believe the current classifications within the office of licensed minister can be streamlined and updated. The dignity and variety of our ministers serving with licenses--chaplains, preachers, musicians, educators, overseas workers, counselors, and so many more--need to be recognized, and that recognition needs to be unified under a single title. Over the years, the old titles, Commissioned Church Worker and Licensed Lay Preacher, have become, at best inexact, and at worst disparaging. Because of their desire to simplify and unify the process of licensing and because of their desire to confer appropriate respect to all our ministers, the following amendment is proposed.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), section IV, C. , be amended as follows:**

- 1. That Paragraph 1, The Commissioned Church Worker, be deleted.**
- 2. That Paragraph 2, The Licensed Lay Preacher, become Paragraph 1, The Licensed Minister.**
- 3. That sections a. and b. of that paragraph be amended to read: "a. [Men and women licensed as lay preachers] Licensed ministers are authorized to perform general ministerial functions under supervision in the region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) granting the license.  
"b. The geographical area within which the [lay preacher] licensed minister may function and the term of service are stated on the license."**
- 4. That Paragraph 3, The Licensed Theological Student, become Paragraph 2, The Licensed Theological Student.**

Thus Section IV. THE OFFICE OF THE LICENSED MINISTER, C. would now read:

C. Classifications within the Office of Licensed Minister. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recognizes classifications within the office of licensed minister, each of which carries its own title and limitations.

1. The Licensed Minister.
  - a. Licensed ministers are authorized to perform general ministerial functions under supervision in the region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) granting the license.
  - b. The geographical area within which the licensed minister may function and the term of service are stated on the license.
2. The Licensed Theological Student.
  - a. Men and women licensed as theological students are authorized to perform general ministerial functions under supervision of the educational institution and the region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) granting the license.
  - b. The geographical area within which the licensed theological student may function is stated on the license, which is issued for one year, subject to renewal.