



Interagency Sexual Ethics Task Force (IASETF) of The United Methodist Church

The Interagency Sexual Ethics Task Force of The United Methodist Church is coordinated by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. The IASETF includes representatives from annual conferences, the Council of Bishops, and ten general agencies of the UMC.

Mandate

The mandate for a denominational Sexual Task Force is found in the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶2103.11 and in the 2016 *Book of Resolutions*, No. 2044: "Sexual Misconduct within Ministerial Relationships," p. 780.

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church renews its stand in opposition to the sin of sexual misconduct within the Church worldwide. It further recommits all United Methodists to the eradication of sexual misconduct in all ministerial relationships, **and calls for:**

1. The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women to continue to convene and coordinate a cooperative interagency group to address the areas of prevention, education, intervention, and healing including a representative of the Council of Bishops, the General Boards of Discipleship, Higher Education and Ministry, Global Ministries, Church and Society, the General Council on Finance and Administration, the Division on Ministries with Young People, and representatives of annual conference Response/Crisis Teams and Safe Sanctuary Teams (each agency member responsible for his or her own expenses and a share of the expenses of the annual conference representatives); ...
2. the development and distribution of resources for lay leadership on this important issue....
3. the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, through the interagency group, to ensure that resources for laity and clergy in ministerial roles are identified and promoted for use in conferences, districts or clusters, and local congregations; ...
4. the Council of Bishops to reaffirm its commitment to preventing and eradicating sexual harassment, abuse, and misconduct in the church.....
5. UM schools of theology to provide training on prevention and eradication of sexual misconduct..
6. BOM to provide education for all appointed clergy, local pastors, and commissioned members
7. Episcopal areas to require that all clergy, local pastors, assigned laity, and commissioned members have regular, up-to-date sexual ethics training and be in good standing for appt.
8. the General Board of Church and Society to continue to advocate for just laws that address or counter sexual harassment and abuse in our larger societies.

History

The United Methodist Interagency Sexual Ethics Task Force traces its beginnings to the collaboration of annual conference and general agency leaders working to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and misconduct in the mid-1990s. GCSRW worked with GBHEM, GBGM, GBCS, and other agencies to promote education and training regarding sexual harassment and abuse, while annual conference leaders established a loose network for sharing and developing resources. In 2000, General Conference



General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



resolved that GCSRW should “convene and coordinate a cooperative work team to address the areas of prevention, education, intervention, and healing with regard to lay and clergy misconduct of a sexual nature.”

This “cooperative work team,” a hybrid of interagency cooperation and annual conference representatives, evolved into the current Interagency Sexual Ethics Task Force (IASETF). Annual conference leaders established the Response Team Network Steering Committee in 2001 as a result of a Response Team training event in Colorado Springs that year, which drew 140 participants from 40 annual conferences and was jointly sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference and GCSRW. The Response Team Resource Network also initiated an e-newsletter which eventually took the form of a website, www.umsexualethics.org, resourced by GCSRW. Meanwhile, the IASETF, comprised of general agency staff, had already been meeting together for several years under GCSRW’s leadership. In July 2002 at the Alma Mathews House in New York, these two groups met together for the first time to collaborate on “a comprehensive, holistic, and integrated approach to prevention and response.” Today, GCSRW continues to convene the Interagency Sexual Ethics Task Force as an **unfunded mandate** by General Conference. Currently, the task force includes leaders from annual conferences, the Council of Bishops, Discipleship Ministries, Global Ministries, GBHEM, GBCS, Wespeth, UMW, and GCFA. The Task Force worked collaboratively to host a national sexual ethics summit “Do No Harm ... Do All the Good You Can” in July 2006 for United Methodist Response Team and Safe Sanctuaries leaders, drawing 238 participants from 48 annual conferences. The second “Do No Harm” event, held January 26 – 29, 2011 in Houston, Texas, was designed for judicatory leaders, Response Teams, Safe Sanctuaries coordinators. Subsequent Do No Harm events were held October 15-17, 2015 in Chicago and October 11-13, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas.

2022 Members

Amie Stewart	astewart@gbhem.org
Ashley Dreff	adreff@gcah.org
Bishop Sharma Lewis	bishoplewis@vaumc.org
Bob Zilhaver	Connellsville.ds@wpaumc.org
Chris Wilterdink	cwilterdink@umcdiscipleship.org
Greg Arnold	garnold@gcumm.org
Helen Allen	HAllen@UMCOM.org
Jodi Benacka	jbenacka@wespeth.org
Camille Henderson-Edwards	chedwards@umcjustice.org
Joy Melton	Joy@hmatlanta.net
Kalamba Kilumba	kkilumba@aol.com
Kathy Hargraves	pastorkathy@gardenstreetumc.org
Kerri Broussard	hrgeneral@umcmmission.org
Leticia Mayberry Wright	lmayberry@gcfa.org
Mollie Vickery	m Vickery@unitedmethodistwomen.org
Stephanie Pastor Arnold	stephanie@firstchurchbhm.com
Todd Willis	legal@umcmmission.org