

Pastoral Care of Accused Clergy

Salvation is Truly Available When Both Discipline and Healing (Justice and Mercy) are Implemented

Discipline Issues

Investigation of Case
Accountability
Determination of Guilt
Truth
Justice
Inhibition of Ministry
Consequences for Behavior
Ecclesiastical Trial
Restitution to Victims
Removal from Clergy Roster
Legal Penalties
Clear Process

Healing Issues

Psych Assessment
Diagnosis and Treatment
Taking Responsibility
Mercy
Redemption
Outplacement Services
Continuing Benefits
Monitoring Therapy
Family Component
Vocational Counseling
Social Responsibility
Advocacy in the Process

Obviously, not all of the items in each column above will be present in every situation. What is important is to attend to both columns.

My belief is that people have turned to the legal/judicial system because the church has been weak in the area of *discipline* and has emphasized the area of *healing* for offenders.

The church is at her most whole when she pursues both these realities faithfully and in a balanced way. Ministry is a sacred trust--betrayals of that trust are significant issues for attention.

These two realities cannot be confused; for example, it is not workable to proceed as if a psychiatric assessment will accomplish the work which an investigation must do, nor is wholeness served if an offender is sent to therapy (*healing*) but not appropriately disciplined (*justice*).

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