Sexual Misconduct Recognition and Response

You may have experienced sexual misconduct if:

- You feel uncomfortable or confused by an incident or behavior.
- You have received invitations for intimate, social occasions.
- You have been touched in a confusing, uncomfortable or unsettling way.
- Your counseling session focuses on the pastor’s or counselor’s needs, or details of their intimate relationships.
- You receive inappropriate personal gifts or emails/texts with sexual overtones.

If you believe you have experienced sexual misconduct:

- Remember, you are not to blame.
- Pay attention to, and trust your feelings during and after the situation.
- Document incidents and save all electronic and written communication.
- Share your feelings with someone you trust.
- Be direct and tell him/her to STOP the behavior. Leave the situation.

Reporting abuse:

- If a child/youth discloses abuse, or you witness or suspect abuse, immediately make a report to Child Protective Services or the police and then notify church leadership.
- Do not do an investigation yourself. Believe the child. Remember that you do not need evidence or proof. Child abuse is not an issue to deal with through church leadership.
- An adult victim experiencing sexual abuse may seek support from local resources and/or report to the police.

When you witness or suspect a child is being abused, immediately contact Child Protective Services and/or the police.

Additional resources for responding to child abuse:

National Child Abuse Hotline: (1-800) 4-A-Child or (1-800) 422-4453
Dove’s Nest: (402) 577-0866 or Info@DovesNest.net

When you believe there may be sexual misconduct, contact one of the following:

Your Conference Minister:

MC USA Leadership Development Office: (574) 523-3054
An adult victim may seek support from local resources and/or report to local police.