

Characteristics of a successful candidate for restoration

After working 15 years on Clergy Ethics in ABCNE, and several cases of clergy misconduct, we only had one successful restoration to ministry. This was one of our early cases. The Department of Professional Ministry for ABCNE reviewed this situation with the staff and the restored pastor and inquired about the characteristics that made this one situation different from others. These are the results.

Characteristics of a successful candidate for restoration:

- Have a willingness to self-report to the church and regional leadership.
- Have a willingness to be accountable to the church and region and remain so.
- Have a willingness to be open throughout the years with personal pain and ask for regional counsel.
- Have a willingness to be accountable to a mentor long-term through the process and for many years to come.
- Work to build renewed closeness to family of origin.
- Study clergy boundary issues and repeated boundary review when there is increased danger.
- Work with a counselor in an accountability relationship.
- Pray for wisdom daily.
- Seek to create and maintain peer accountability relationships.
- Create and maintain accountability with my spouse.
- Have a spouse who prays for me and reminds me of her forgiveness when my thoughts return to the misconduct.
- Have a personal desire not to let myself, my church, the region, the denomination, and the Lord down again in the same or a related manner.
- Accept the continual grace from God to keep moving forward for without the power of His grace anyone can fall.