

APPENDIX C



Sample Disclosure Statements for Congregations

Bishop's statement regarding misconduct by an ordained leader in a parish:

This past week I learned that Rev. Z had an inappropriate relationship outside of his marriage with an adult woman who received pastoral care from Rev. Z. This behavior on the part of any priest is not acceptable. As a result, I met with Rev. Z on Wednesday morning. I informed him of the seriousness of this matter and Rev. Z resigned as priest of this parish at that meeting.

This week I met with your wardens and officers to begin the work of looking forward to the future, as well as healing from this loss. The Rev. Y will be performing services at your church through [date].

Please know that my staff is working to provide care and support to all those affected by this situation. I am holding this parish, Rev. Z and Y, and all other individuals affected by this situation in my prayers.

Bishop's statement regarding misconduct by an ordained leader in a parish:

It has come to my attention that the Rev. Z, your interim rector, violated safe church protocols as set in place by our diocese. The violations I am aware of do not involve children or minors.

I asked for and have received Rev. Z's resignation as interim rector of St. B's.

I and [name of judicatory staff member] will meet again with the leadership of St. B's on Tuesday evening and then return on Thursday to meet with the staff to assist in determining how best to move forward at this time.

Rector and wardens' statement regarding allegations of sexual abuse of minor by lay member/leader:

It is our responsibility to advise parish members that allegations of sexual misconduct have been received against Y, a member of our church. These allegations stem from a time about ten years ago and involve a person who was a minor at that time. Y denies these allegations. These allegations have been reported to the appropriate civil authorities.