

BOUNDARY EDUCATION POLICY FOR THE CENTRAL STATES SYNOD

Conference of Bishops:

Recognizing both the importance and the responsibility of those who are called to proclaim the gospel and care for the people as rostered and synod authorized ministers, the *Boundaries Education Working Group* (comprised of synod and churchwide leaders) has recommended that all synods engage in a three-year cycle of boundary education which encompasses basic boundaries, gender justice, and racial justice designed to support ministers as they live out their callings and commitments to the church.

Central States Synod Council:

Understanding the benefit of boundary education for the well-being of rostered ministers, Synod authorized ministers, and ministries of our congregations, the synod council of the Central States adopted the following policy at their meeting on October 26, 2024.

- 1. Rostered ministers seeking a new call will have their rostered minister profiles activated only when the rostered minister has regularly participated in boundary education.*
- 2. Yearly covenants between synod authorized ministers and congregations will be renewed only for synod authorized ministers who have regularly participated in boundary education.*
- 3. Consideration by the synod council of requests for on leave from call status or retirement status will take into account the rostered minister's participation in boundary education.*

Congregational leadership should have conversations with their rostered ministers about the importance of boundary education for the minister and members of the congregation.

Regular participation will mean at least once in three years until December 31, 2026; and then at least two times in the past three years beginning January 1, 2027.

Synod staff will offer boundary education annually in-person and virtually as resources permit. They will support clergy, staff and congregations in living out this policy for the mutual sharing of the Gospel.