



Community of Christ

Application of the Official Policy concerning “Consumption of Intoxicants by Priesthood” in Canada

Background

This document has been prepared in response to the Community of Christ Official Policy on “Consumption of Intoxicants by Priesthood” in which the following statement appears:

Provisions for applying this policy will be developed by the apostle for each nation or field after consultation with field leaders and with approval of the First Presidency.

Application

The following is applicable to Canada West Mission Centre and Canada East Mission Centre.

Additional Definitions:

Community wellbeing upholds the safety and wholeness of all members of the faith community especially the most vulnerable.

Application Section:

1. All presiding officers should utilize the principles and definitions in this document when determining the appropriateness of priesthood behavior in relationship to this policy.
2. In all instances, pastoral ministry to clarify and resolve issues should be offered before administrative action is taken. Pastoral ministry may include helping people seek professional services to treat dependence and addiction.
3. It is the responsibility of priesthood to uphold the principles of faithful priesthood ministry in all aspects of their ministry, witness, and lives. The loss of power to minister effectively may result from a number of behaviors including consuming intoxicants in public. Public displays on social media may have far-reaching impacts that can negatively influence the church in different nations.
4. The following administrative action applies under this policy:
 - a. Prior to administrative action, presiding officers should always consult with the next level presiding officer in considering pastoral support and administrative action most appropriate to the situation. The intent of consultation is support

and not direction in order to maintain the integrity of the appeal process.

- b. In the event that use of intoxicants negatively impacts relationships, ministry, or community wellbeing, the presiding officer should inform the priesthood member that administrative action will be taken if the behavior occurs again. If the behavior continues, administrative action should be taken to remove the priesthood member from active ministry according to established procedures, which include the right of appeal.
- c. If a priesthood member attempts to provide ministry or participate in a church activity while under the influence of intoxicants the presiding officer should remove the priesthood member from active ministry according to established procedures, which include the right of appeal.