

## CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE RESPONSE LINE

The Clergy Sexual Abuse Response line is a service of the North Georgia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The Response Line will receive calls from individuals who perceive they have been victims of clergy sexual abuse. Skilled volunteers will listen and give information on how to report incidents and to whom such incidents are to be reported. All calls will be confidential and anonymous.

### FURTHER NOTES:

1. The Response Line team was created at the request of the Bishop and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.
2. The Response Line will be staffed by 6 or more UMC Clergy who are also Licensed Professional Counselors or have equivalent credentials. The phone will be located in one office and the calls forwarded to one of the members. The toll free number is 866-612-2770. We have 9 volunteers at present: Tom Camp, Mari Lane Brooks, Dennis Jarvis, Skip Johnson, Nancy Long, Karen Scheib, Woody Spackman, Cynthia Vaughan and Boyd Whaley. The Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee will approve additional volunteer skilled staff for the Response Line.
3. Members of The Response Line team are not advocates for the victim or the clergy.
4. The Response Line team will listen and help the person express facts and feelings according to the Operational Guidelines of the Response Line. Team members will communicate that the church/conference is willing to listen to them. The Response Line team will refer persons to their District Superintendent who will work with the person after that. Team members may suggest a person seek counseling, but will not take any cases themselves, and they will not give referrals.
5. The Response Line Team members have agreed to these guidelines. Any changes in these guidelines will be approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee and the Bishop.
6. The Bishop, Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee may at some future time develop and deploy a Response Team to promote healing in a situation resulting from clergy sexual misconduct.
7. This Clergy Sexual Abuse Response Line statement will be submitted into the 2010 Conference Handbook as a part of the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry for consideration by the Clergy Executive Session and, if approved, for the information of the Annual Conference and insertion into the 2010 Conference Journal.

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