

1 **R-3 WILLIAMS RESOLUTION**
2 **“PROTECTING CLERGY AND THEIR FAMILIES”**

3
4 **Resolution:**

5 INUMC shall develop a policy to assist clergy persons dealing with threats, harassment, or stalking
6 that has arisen because of their ministry.

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8 This shall include:

9 * assisting in getting an attorney, including the cost, to help with restraining orders as necessary.

10 * providing all relevant information and documentation to attorneys upon request for legal
11 procedures.

12 * supervision to testify in court upon request.

13 * assistance with alarms and security systems if congregation cannot afford it for parsonages.

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15 INUMC shall work with GCOSROW to develop this policy.

16 Policy shall be communicated in quadrennial training.

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18 **Rationale:**

19 INUMC clergy are vulnerable because of the public nature of their work. They do ministry with at
20 risk individuals including those suffering from mental illness and also help abused spouses who
21 are seek to escape. Speaking out on social justice issues can also make clergy persons a target of
22 harassment. Multiple INUMC clergy have had to file for restraining orders because they felt unsafe
23 in the past and there has been no formal policy to assist them. This policy and financial assistance
24 would help clergy who are struggling as a result of their ministry. Secular employers would provide
25 these kinds of protections to employees.

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27 **Financial Implications:** Yes

28 Stalking and harassment cases are fairly rare. However, these circumstances could produce
29 expenses for attorneys, alarm systems, and travel for court appearances.

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31 **Groups to forward/affirm:**

32 Bishop Trimble & Cabinet

33 General COSROW Becky Posey Williams, GCOSROW, 303 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2020, Chicago, IL,

34 United States, Illinois

35 Shannon Stringer

36 INUMC Clergy

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