



Minnesota
Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

Plagiarism Policy

Minnesota Annual Conference - Board of Ordained Ministry, May 2015

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

Being in ministry means crafting and sharing words. All of what deacons and elders do involves the Word. Christ is present in words we pray, write, sing, and speak. Making good decisions with the words we choose is an act of theological integrity. This policy regarding plagiarism reflects our covenant to serve Jesus Christ in all we do.

Plagiarism is defined as:

plagiarism| 'plājə, rizəm| noun
the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas
and passing them off as one's own.

In one sense, everything we do comes from the work of others. Sermons are based on the writings of scripture, thousands of years of scholarship, and a lifetime of homiletic development. Stories and illustrations come from a variety of sources that add richness to teaching and preaching. Some might understand the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas as common sermon development, unavoidable, and ultimately beneficial for advancing the Kingdom of God.

With these considerations in mind, it is the policy of the Minnesota Annual Conference that using the work or ideas of another without credit is plagiarism. It is up to each of us individually, and our covenantal community, to hold ourselves up to the highest standards that God may be glorified in all that we do. All material submitted to the Board of Ordained Ministry will be held to standards described at www.plagiarism.org. Additional insight into what is considered plagiarism and proper citation of the work of others can be consulted using *The Harvard Guide to Using Sources*.

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry has purchased a subscription to iThenticate software. The Minnesota Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry will be screening all candidate's paperwork using iThenticate. The board of Ordained Ministry will use the final report from iThenticate as part of the discernment process.