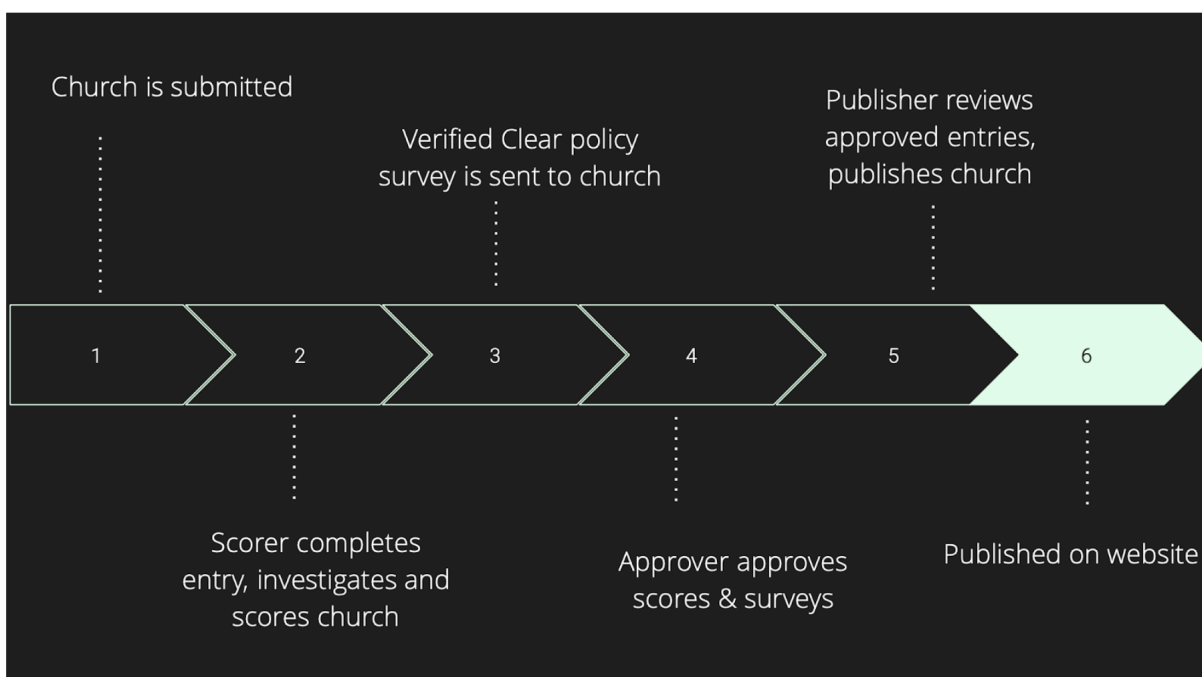# Church Clarity

HOW WE SCORE:
An Overview of Our Methodology
By: **The Church Clarity Team**

FOR OUR FULL COLLECTION OF RESOURCES VISIT CHURCHCLARITY.COM/RESOURCES

Anyone can submit a church using our Crowdsource Submission Form. Once they do, the church proceeds through our "scoring" pipeline where it is then scored, approved, and published to our database by a Church Clarity volunteer. Here is an overview of the five stages, which typically lasts 2-3 weeks.

Stage 1: Submission

We receive church submissions daily. We maintain strict confidentiality; any information about who the submitter is will not be revealed to the church. Submitters are given the option to share their story publicly and often elect to write posts for the Church Clarity blog. We publish stories that are specifically focused on how they have been negatively impacted by a lack of a clearly communicated church policy.

Stage 2: Scoring

Within a week of a church's submission, it is assigned to one of our Church Clarity volunteers. Our volunteers undergo a trial run and training process before we assign them real live churches to score.

When a church is assigned, volunteers first complete any missing information in the church entry, and then score the church's website for how clearly it communicates its LGBTQ and Women in Leadership policies following our publicly communicated scoring guidelines. Churches are scored based on publicly available information online located on the church's website, denomination's or network's website, and

pastor's statements. What is not counted towards a church's score, although it may be linked to in a church entry: Media reporting, anecdotal stories emailed to us or shared online, etc. Our volunteers are trained to act as 'online fact-checkers' or 'online investigators,' scouring through sermon archives, social media feeds, or searching denomination / network databases and applying our methodology.

Each church is assigned two scores by a volunteer: One for LGBTQ policy, and another for Women in Leadership policy. If we score a church as Unclear, we always include a written rationale to explain why we did so that churches can know what to change about their websites in order to become clear. Keep in mind that at this point, we have not attempted to make contact with the church in order to score it.

Stage 3: VC Survey

After a church is scored by a volunteer, it is automatically sent a Verified Clear survey. This is the one opportunity that a church has to proactively self-disclose its actively enforced policies by filling out our policy survey.

If the church chooses to fill it out, no matter what its answers are, it will receive the highest score in our system: Verified Clear. Many churches have chosen to respond to this survey in a variety of ways; they are our Verified Clear churches. Once a church responds, it is automatically moved to the next stage in our pipeline: Approval.

After two weeks, if we do not receive a response from the church, then the scores assigned to it by a volunteer (Stage 2) will remain. It will be automatically moved to the next stage in our pipeline: Approval.

Stage 4: Approval

A select group of specially trained volunteers are responsible for approving volunteers' scoring. They double-check church entries to make sure everything is complete, that the scoring is accurate, and that the language that is used to score the church is consistent and objective. They provide feedback to volunteers if they catch any errors. Lastly, they review all Verified Clear surveys that come in and ensure that all questions are answered and that the submitter is an authorized representative of the church.

Stage 5: Publishing

A few highly experienced Church Clarity leaders conduct one last check of all approved entries. Once ready, publishers finally release church entries for publication on our public website, www.churchclarity.com.

Anyone can submit an appeal to correct outdated or inaccurate information about a church entry once a church is published. (Keep in mind what our scoring definitions are, however.) Church leaders are also free to submit their Verified Clear survey response to us at anytime.

For more information email us at info (at) churchclarity.com