



## Ministerial Code of Ethics

Believing that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God, and proclaiming him Lord and Savior of the world, I reaffirm my vows as a minister. Through dedication and discipline I will lead and serve with integrity. Relying on the grace of God, I commit myself to the following:

### *Personal Conduct*

- Witnessing to the ministry of Jesus Christ.
- Dedicating time, strength, vitality, and energy for effective ministry;
- Growing in faith, knowledge, and the practice of ministry through the spiritual disciplines, study, continuing education, and service;
- Living a life that honors my commitments to my family, including the need for privacy and time together;
- Taking time for physical and spiritual renewal, recreation, and vacation;
- Being a faithful steward of God's gifts to me by managing time, talents, and financial resources responsibly and generously;
- Accepting responsibility for all debts that I incur;
- Keeping physically and emotionally fit and refraining from substance abuse and other abusive behaviors;
- Using my position, power, and authority in non-exploitive ways;
- Maintaining high moral standards in my sexual behavior;
- Regarding all persons with equal respect and concern and undertaking to minister impartially.

### *Relationships to the Church which I Serve*

- Nurturing and offering my gifts for ministry to the church;
- Calling forth and nurturing the gifts of others in the church and joining their gifts with mine for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ and the health of the church;
- Preaching and teaching the gospel without fear or favor and speaking the truth in love;
- Administering the sacraments/ordinances and services of the church with integrity and not for financial gain;
- Working cooperatively and collegially with those whom I serve in the particular ministry to which I have been called;
- Administering the corporate finances of the church with personal integrity;
- Refraining from accepting any gift which would compromise the church's ministry;
- Protecting confidences; covenanting to only tell those who need to know, what they need to know, when they need to know it;
- Acting to prevent and to report known or suspected cases of physical or sexual abuse or neglect;
- Encouraging and participating in the regular evaluation of my ministry and cooperating with the region in the annual review of my ministerial Standing;

- Seeking the counsel of the Regional Minister should divisive tensions threaten my relationship with those I serve.

*Relationships to Ministry Colleagues*

- Engaging in covenantal relationships with colleagues which involve nurture, discipline, family support, vigorous dialogue, mutual teaching/learning, and spiritual formation;
- Supporting colleagues in ministry and their families while not exploiting their problems or crises;
- Performing pastoral services within another congregation or for a member of another congregation only at the request of that congregation's elders and current pastor;
- Supporting and at no time speaking maliciously of the ministry of my predecessors or another minister;
- Encouraging the ministry of my successor upon my retirement or other departure from a ministry position, without interfering or intruding and by making it clear to former parishioners that I am no longer their pastor, nor will I perform any pastoral services unless requested by the congregation's elders and current pastor.

*Relationships to the Community and the Wider Church*

- Participating responsibly in the life and work of my community, bearing prophetic witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and working towards a just and morally responsible society;
- Participating faithfully in the life and work of all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
- Seeking to know, understand, and respect the diversity of opinions and people within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
- Being a responsible representative of the one church of Jesus Christ and participating in activities which strengthen its ministry, witness, and mission.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# My Ministerial Code of Ethics

Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God and proclaiming him Lord and Savior of the world, I reaffirm my vows as an ordained or licensed minister. Through dedication and discipline I will lead and serve with integrity. Relying on the grace of God, I commit myself to the following:

## Personal Conduct

- witnessing to the ministry of Jesus Christ
- dedicating time, strength, vitality and energy for effective ministry
- growing in faith, knowledge and the practice of ministry through the spiritual disciplines, study, continuing education, and service
- living a life that honors my commitments to my family, including the need for privacy and time together
- taking time for physical and spiritual renewal, recreation, and vacation
- being a faithful steward of God's gifts to me by managing time, talents, and financial resources responsibly and generously
- accepting responsibility for all debts which I incur
- keeping physically and emotionally fit and refraining from substance abuse and other abusive behaviors
- using my position, power, and authority for good and never for exploiting another
- maintaining high moral standards in my sexual behavior
- regarding all persons with equal respect and concern and undertaking to minister impartially

## Relationship to the Church I Serve

- nurturing and offering my gifts for ministry to the Church
- calling forth and nurturing the gifts of others in the Church and joining their gifts with mine for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ and the health of the Church
- preaching and teaching the gospel without fear or favor and speaking the truth in love
- administering the sacraments and services of the Church with integrity and not for financial gain
- working cooperatively and collegially with those whom I serve in the particular ministry to which I have been called
- administering the corporate finances of the Church with personal integrity
- refraining from accepting any gift which would compromise the Church's ministry
- protecting confidences, with the exception of reporting known or suspected cases of physical or sexual abuse and neglect

- encouraging and participating in the regular evaluation of my ministry and cooperating with the Region in the periodic review of my ministerial standing
- seeking the counsel of the Regional Minister should divisive tensions threaten my relationship with those I serve

## Relationship to Ministry Colleagues

- engaging in covenant relationships with colleagues which involve nurture, discipline, family support, vigorous dialogue, mutual teaching and learning, and spiritual formation
- supporting colleagues in ministry and their families and not exploiting their problems or crises
- performing pastoral services within a congregation or for a member of a congregation only at the invitation of the pastor of that congregation
- supporting, and at no time speaking maliciously of, the ministry of my predecessor, successor, or another

## Relationship to the Community and the Wider Church

- participating responsibly in the life and work of my community, bearing prophetic witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and working toward a just and morally responsible society
- participating faithfully in the life and work of all manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- seeking to know, understand, and respect the diversity of opinions and people within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- being a responsible representative of the one Church of Jesus Christ and participating in activities which strengthen its unity, witness, and mission

Signature \_\_\_\_\_