

Personal and Ministerial Code of Ethics

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Rev A

Preamble

As a follower of Jesus Christ, I am called by God to proclaim the gospel and gifted by the Holy Spirit to minister in the church. Therefore, I am committed to conduct my ministry and my life according to the ethical guidelines and principles I have set forth in this code of ethics. In doing this I am praying that my ministry will be acceptable to God, that my service will be beneficial to the Christian community, and that my life will be a positive witness of Jesus Christ to the world.

Responsibilities to Self

- I will maintain and improve my physical and emotional health through regular exercise, good eating habits, adequate sleep, and the proper care of my body.
- I will nurture my spiritual life through a regular time of personal prayer, reading of Scripture, and meditation. At least semi-annually I will take a retreat to focus on God and my life with Him.
- I will continue to grow intellectually through personal study, comprehensive reading, and attending growth conferences as I am able.
- I will manage my time effectively by properly balancing personal obligations, church duties, and family responsibilities. I will additionally include in my time management times for rest including a weekly day off and an annual vacation.
- Because I am a steward of the resources God has given me I will be honest and responsible in my finances and lifestyle. I will pay all debts on time, and will never seek special gratuities or privileges because of my position. I will generously support the ministry of the church and strategically use our financial resources to further the work of God while assuring that my family is properly cared for.
- I will be truthful in my speech, never plagiarizing another's work, exaggerating the facts, misusing personal experiences, or communicating gossip.
- I will seek to be Christ like in attitude and action toward all persons regardless of race, social class, religious beliefs, or position of influence within the church and community.

- I will actively maintain a mentoring relationship with an individual to challenge me and provide a means of encouragement in the following of my ethical responsibilities.

Responsibilities to Family

- I will love my wife and support her in the unique and varied roles given by God as my wife, the mother of our children, and a co-worker in service to our savior.
- I will regard my children and their spouses as a gift from God. I will seek to encourage their walk with the Lord and to help meet their individual needs as I am able without imposing undue expectations upon them.
- I will regard my grandchildren as a gift from God and seek to be a godly influence in their lives.
- I will be fair to every member of my family, giving them the time, love, and consideration they need.
- I will never publicly share details about any of my family members without first obtaining permission from them.
- As a son of my parents I will maintain a close relationship with them and my siblings seeking opportunities to demonstrate the Love of God to them and help to meet their needs as I am able.

Responsibilities to the global Church and my Church of fellowship

- I will seek to be a servant of the church by following the example of Christ in faith, love, wisdom, courage, and integrity.
- I will faithfully discharge my time and energies in whatever roles are assigned or requested of me with proper work habits and reasonable schedules.
- In my administrative and pastoral duties if any, I will be impartial and fair to all others regardless of race, creed, gender or position of influence within the church or community. A specific exception to this is in the appointment of elders which is a Biblically mandated male only position.
- In my preaching responsibilities, I will give adequate time to prayer and preparation so that my presentation will be biblically based, theologically correct, and clearly communicated.
- In my evangelistic responsibilities, I will seek to lead persons to salvation and to church

membership without manipulating converts, proselytizing members of other churches, or demeaning other religious faiths.

- As I am engaged in counseling or coaching
 - I will maintain strict confidentiality, except in cases where disclosure is necessary to prevent harm to persons and/or is required by law.
 - I will have a pastor/counselor to whom I can turn for counseling and advice.
 - I will be aware of my own needs and vulnerabilities, never seeking to meet my personal needs through any individuals I may be counseling or coaching..
 - I will recognize the power I hold over counselees and never take advantage of their vulnerability through exploitation or manipulation.
 - In my visitation and coaching practices, I will never be alone with a person of the opposite sex unless another church member is present nearby.
 - I will never become sexually or romantically involved with a client or engage in any form of erotic or romantic contact.
- Understanding that no particular ministry is permanent, I will seek to always replicate myself in others. When preparing to leave I will seek to strengthen the ministry through proper timing, verbal affirmation and an appropriate closure of my ministry.

Responsibilities to Colleagues

- I will be supportive of and loyal to my pastor or, if unable to do so, will seek another place of worship and service.
- I will be supportive of and loyal to my fellow ministers, never criticizing them or undermining their ministry.
- I will recognize my role and responsibility to the church staff and will not feel threatened or in competition with any other minister of the church.
- I will maintain good relationships with other ministers of my denomination.
- I will endeavor to relate to all ministers, as partners in the work of God, respecting their ministry and cooperating with them.
- I will seek to serve my minister colleagues and their families with counsel, support, and personal assistance.
- I will refuse to treat other ministers as competition in order to gain a church, receive an honor, or achieve statistical success.

- I will refrain from speaking disparagingly about the person or work of any other minister.
- I will enhance the ministry of my successor(s) by refusing to interfere in any way with the church(es) I have formerly served in.
- I will participate in services at a church, such as weddings and funerals, only if invited by or approved by the resident pastor.
- I will be thoughtful and respectful of all retired ministers and, upon my retirement, I will support and love my pastor.
- I will be honest and kind in my recommendations of other ministers to church positions or other inquiries.
- If aware of serious misconduct by a minister, I will contact responsible officials of that minister's church body and inform them of the incident.

Responsibilities to the Community

- I will consider my primary responsibility to be the ministry God has called me to and will never neglect those duties in order to serve in the community.
- I will accept reasonable responsibilities for community service, recognizing that as a Christian I am to have a public ministry and impact.
- I will support public morality in the community through responsible prophetic witness, my personal lifestyle and civic involvement.
- I will obey the laws of my government unless they require my disobedience to the law of God.
- I will practice Christian citizenship without engaging in partisan politics or political activities that are unethical, unbiblical, or unwise.

Responsibilities to My Denomination

- I will love, support, and cooperate with the faith community of which I am a part, recognizing the debt I owe to my denomination for its contribution to my life, my ministry, and my church.
- I will work to improve my denomination in its efforts to expand and extend the kingdom of God.