

Code of Ministerial Ethics

The following standards are set forth in an effort to create professional understanding and to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of our chosen profession—the ministry of Jesus Christ.

My Person

- I will endeavor to pray daily, to read, study and meditate upon God's Word; and to maintain extended times of contemplation.
- I will plan time to be with my family, realizing my special relationship to them, and their position as important members of my congregation.
- I will seek to keep my body physically fit through proper eating habits and planned exercise, renewing myself through a weekly holiday and an annual vacation.
- I will try to keep myself emotionally fit, keeping in touch with my feelings and growing in healthy control of them.
- I will strive to grow through comprehensive reading and through participation in professional educational opportunities.
- I will be a servant of God seeking to maintain a life of purity, integrity and truthfulness.

My Calling

- I will seek to conduct myself consistently with my calling and commitment as a servant of God.
- I will give full service to my congregation and will accept added responsibilities only if they do not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my ministry in the congregation.
- I will consider a confidential statement made to me as a sacred trust not to be divulged without consent of the person making it.
- I will responsibly exercise the freedom of the pulpit, speaking the truth of God's Word with conviction in love; and will acknowledge any extensive use of material prepared by someone else.

My Finances

- I will advocate adequate compensation for my profession and will assist the congregation to understand that a minister should not expect or require fees for pastoral services to them.
- I will be honest in my stewardship of money, paying bills promptly, asking no personal favors or discounts on the basis of my professional status.
- I will give tithes and offerings as a good steward and example to the church.

My Congregation

- I will seek to regard all persons in the congregation with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to their needs and refrain from behavior that will be divisive.
- I will seek to be friends with all members, yet retain the right to seek close friendships within the congregation.
- I will exercise confidence in the lay leadership, assisting in their training and mobilizing their creativity.
- I will seek to lead the church in a positive direction to achieve the goals we have mutually agreed upon. I will remain open to constructive criticism and to suggestions intended to strengthen our common ministry.
- I will candidate at only one church at a time. I will respond promptly and definitely to a call, and I shall seek to deal fairly with the church I am presently serving.

My Colleagues

- I will not perform services in the area of responsibility of my colleague in the Christian ministry except upon his request and/or consent.
- I will, upon my departure, sever my pastoral relations with the congregation, recognizing that all pastoral functions should henceforth rightfully be conducted by my successor. I will seek and honor comity arrangements made with fellow pastors.
- I will, upon retirement or withdrawal from the ministry, refrain from engaging in pastoral functions within our church fellowship unless requested by the pastor.
- I will seek to maintain supportive and caring relationships with my colleagues in the ministry.

My Denomination

I will cooperate with the personnel of the Baptist General Conference and of the district in which I serve, and offer responsible criticism in order that our common service in the kingdom of God might be more effective. Furthermore, I will use my influence to affirm and edify the fellowship of this church with the district and the Baptist General Conference.

I _____ covenant in the sight of God with my colleagues in the ministry to strive to keep the Code of Ministerial Ethics of the Baptist General Conference. Date _____