



Code of Ethics

Includes basic obligations for all ministers

Preamble

As a minister of Jesus Christ, called by God to proclaim the Gospel, and gifted by the Spirit to lead the church, I dedicate myself to conduct my ministry according to the ethical guidelines and principles set forth in this Code of Ethics, in order that my ministry be acceptable to God, my services be beneficial to the Christian community, and my life be a witness to the world.

Responsibilities to Self

1. I will maintain my physical and emotional health through regular exercise, good eating habits, and the proper care of my body.
2. I will nurture my devotional life through a regular time of prayer, reading of the Scriptures and meditation.
3. I will continue to grow intellectually through leadership study and comprehensive reading.
4. I will manage my time well by properly balancing personal obligations, church duties, and family responsibilities.
5. I will be honest and responsible in my finances by paying all debts on time, giving generously to the Lord's work and to worthwhile causes, and living a Christian lifestyle.
6. I will be truthful in my speech, never plagiarising another's work, exaggerating the facts, abusing personal experiences, or communicating gossip.
7. 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.

Responsibilities to Family

1. I will be fair to every member of my family, giving them the time, love, and consideration they need.

2. I will understand the unique role of my spouse, recognising his or her primary responsibility is as marital partner and parent to the children.
3. I will regard my children as a gift from God and seek to meet their individual needs without imposing undue expectations upon them.

Responsibilities to Congregation

1. I will seek to be a servant-minister of the church by following the example of Christ in faith, love, wisdom, courage, and integrity.
2. I will faithfully discharge my time and energies as a Church Leader with proper work habits and reasonable schedules.
3. In my administrative and pastoral duties, I will be impartial and fair to all members.
4. 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.
5. In my pastoral counselling, I will maintain appropriate confidentiality, except in cases where disclosure is necessary to prevent harm to persons and/or is required by law.
6. In my evangelistic responsibilities, I will seek to lead persons to Salvation and to church membership without manipulating converts, proselytising members of other churches, or demeaning other faiths.
7. In my visitation and counselling practices, I will exercise due propriety and seek never to be alone with a person of the opposite sex unless another church member is present nearby.

Responsibilities to Colleagues

1. I will endeavour to relate to all ministers, especially those with whom I serve in my church, as partners in the work of God, respecting their ministry and co-operating with them.
2. I will seek to serve my minister colleagues and their families with counsel, support, and personal assistance.

3. I will refuse to treat other ministers as competitors.
4. I will refrain from speaking disparagingly about the person or work of any other minister, especially my predecessor or successor.

Responsibilities to the Community

1. I will consider my primary responsibility to be a leader of my congregation and will never neglect ministerial duties in order to serve in the community.
2. I will accept reasonable responsibility for community service, recognising the minister has a public ministry.
3. I will support public morality in the community through responsible prophetic witness and social action.
4. I will obey the laws of my government unless they require my disobedience to the law of God.
5. I will practice Christian citizenship without engaging in political activities that are unethical, unbiblical or unwise.

Responsibilities to Assemblies of God

1. I will support, co-operate and be committed to the Fellowship of Assemblies of God, acknowledging the contribution it can make to my life, my ministry and my local church.
2. I will be committed to the Fellowship in the efforts to expand the Kingdom of God and be faithful to its aims and doctrine.
3. I will exercise the highest integrity in all matters of finance especially in relationship to the Fellowship including:
 - a) Payment of my Minister's subscriptions
 - b) Personally ensuring my local church pays its properly calculated annual contribution to the Fellowship as set out in the constitution.*

4. I will make every effort to contribute to the Fellowship by attending regularly the Regional Meetings; and convey apologies when unable to attend and if possible send an assembly representative.

5. I will endeavour to attend the Annual General Conference and if unable to attend, will try to send an assembly representative.

* This can only apply to the Senior Minister.