

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 & energy for effective ministry**
- **growing in faith, knowledge and the practice of ministry through the spiritual disciplines, study, continuing education & service**
- **living a life that honors my commitments to my family, including the need for privacy & time together**
- **taking time for physical & spiritual, recreation & vacation**
- **being a faithful steward of God's gifts to me by managing time, talents & financial resources responsibly & generously**
- **accepting responsibility for all debts, which I incur, & refraining from gossip**
- **keeping physically & emotionally fit & refraining from substance abuse & other abusive behaviors**
- **using my position, power & authority in non-exploitive ways**
- **maintaining high moral standards in my sexual behavior**
- **regarding all persons with equal respect & concern & undertaking to minister impartially**

Relationships to The Church I Serve

- **nurturing & offering my gifts for ministry to the church**
- **calling forth & nurturing the gifts of others in the Church & joining their gifts with mine for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ & the health of the church**
- **preaching & teaching the gospel without fear or favor & speaking the truth in love**
- **administering the sacraments & services of the Church with integrity & not for financial gain**
- **working cooperatively & 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 & neglect**
- **encouraging & participating in the regular evaluation of my ministry & 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**

Relationships to Ministry Colleagues

- **engaging in covenantal relationships with colleagues, which involve nurture, discipline, family support, vigorous dialogue, mutual teaching/learning & spiritual formation**
- **supporting colleagues in ministry & 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 invitation of the pastor of that congregation**
- **supporting & at no time speaking maliciously of the ministry of my predecessor or another minister in the congregation in which I hold membership**
- **encouraging the ministry of my successor upon my retirement or other departure from a ministry position, without interfering or intruding & by making it clear to former parishioners that I am no longer their pastor**

Relationships To The Community & The Wider Church

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