



Code of Ethics

for Credentialed Assemblies of God Ministers

And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited. (2 Corinthians 6:1, 3)

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ . . . (Philippians 1:27)

All who are called by God to the ministry of the gospel solemnly commit to a life of joyful obedience and selfless service in order to glorify God and enrich his people. Therefore, as a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God, be it acknowledged by your signature below that you join voluntarily in this solemn commitment to:

Pursue Integrity

Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things . . . (1 Chronicles 29:17)

- **in personal character.**
Exalt the Messiah Jesus, not self. Be honest, not exaggerating or overpromising; peace-loving, not contentious; patient, not volatile; diligent, not slothful. Avoid and, when necessary, report conflicts of interest and seek counsel.
- **in personal care.**
Care for the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical dimensions of your person, for “your bodies are *the* temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- **in prayer and study of the Word of God.**
Preserve and guard your personal relationship with the heavenly Father and his Son, the Messiah Jesus, through devoted prayer and diligent study of his Word. Come into agreement with Him to discern his will with the aid of the Holy Spirit. Agree with the apostolic leadership of the first century, “And we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).
- **in preaching and teaching.**
Interpret the Bible accurately and apply it discerningly: “In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned” (Titus 2:7-8). Speak the truth in love. Give due credit when using the words or ideas of others.
- **in respect and honor of ministers, assemblies and the ministry.**
Develop a collegiality with other ministers and friends to provide fellowship, accountability, support and counsel. Avoid aloofness. Love one another. Be generous to guest ministers, showing hospitality and genuine care for their welfare and livelihood. Respect those who precede and follow in ministerial assignments. Refrain from influencing adherents of other congregations to attend your congregation or interfere in another congregation. Be cooperative



with those within the South Carolina District Council and seek to cooperate with other fellowships and ministries beyond that are faithful to God's Word. Seek to learn from others and share growth experiences. Be supportive and loyal to the ministry leadership and team, or graciously resign. Strive to treat staff pastors under his or her leadership with respect, encouragement, and graciousness. When making ministry transitions, provide an atmosphere that guards the health of the congregation and provides a healthy environment for those who follow.

Be Trustworthy

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

- **in leadership.**
Model the trustworthiness of God in leadership to encourage and develop trustworthiness in others. Use power and influence prudently and humbly. Foster loyalty. Demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of the entire congregation. Keep promises. Respond sensitively and appropriately to ministry requests and needs: "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much." (Luke 16:10).
- **with information.**
Guard confidences carefully. Inform a person in advance, if possible, when an admission is about to be made that might legally require the disclosure of that information. Communicate truthfully and discreetly when asked about individuals with destructive or sinful behavior patterns. Tell the truth, or remain discreetly silent: "He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter." (Proverbs 11:13).
- **with resources.**
Be honest and prudent in regard to personal and ministry resources. Refuse gifts that could compromise ministry. Ensure that all designated gifts are used for their intended purpose: "Therefore, if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?" (Luke 16:11).

Seek Purity

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. (1 Timothy 4:12)

- **in maintaining sexual purity.**
Avoid sinful sexual behavior and inappropriate involvement. Resist temptation: "Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality" (Ephesians 5:3a).
- **in spiritual formation.**
Earnestly seek the help of the Holy Spirit for guidance and spiritual growth. Be faithful to maintain a heart of devotion to the Lord. Be consistent and intentional in prayer and scriptural



study: "Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

- **in theology.**
Study the Bible regularly and carefully to understand its message, and embrace biblical doctrine. In forming theology, consider biblical teaching authoritative over all other sources.
- **in professional practice.**
Identify a minister/counselor who can provide personal counseling and advice when needed. Develop an awareness of personal needs and vulnerabilities. Avoid taking advantage of the vulnerabilities of others through exploitation or manipulation. Address the misconduct of another minister directly or, if necessary, through appropriate persons to whom that minister may be accountable.

Embrace Accountability

Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2, 3)

- **in finances.**
Promote accepted accounting practices and regular audits. Ensure that church funds are used for their intended ministry purposes. Give tithes faithfully and payable to the South Carolina District Council according to the prescribed manner set forth in the District Council Bylaws.
- **in ministry responsibilities.**
Ensure clarity in authority structures, decision-making procedures, position descriptions, and grievance policies. Be a model of accountability at the highest organizational levels. Live according to God's purposes in worship, study, discipleship, mission, fellowship and service.
- **in the Assemblies of God Fellowship.**
Ensure compliance with the standards and expectations of the General Council, District Council and Sectional Council of the Assemblies of God. Support the leadership, promote and support Assemblies of God mission and ministries throughout the world.

As a minister of the gospel credentialed with the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, I commit to abide by the standards set forth in this Code of Ethics.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____