

ETHICAL AFFIRMATIONS FOR MY MINISTRY

Adopted: October 17, 1992 by Regional Assembly

As a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, called of God to proclaim in word and deed the unsearchable riches of God's love, I commit my self to the following principles that through dedication and discipline I might lead and serve with integrity.

My Personal Conduct

I will cultivate my spiritual life through biblical study, meditation, service and prayer.

I will endeavor to keep physically and emotionally fit, will refrain from substance abuse and will be intentional about self-care.

I will be faithful and fair to my family and intentionally give them quality time and consideration.

I will be fiscally responsible by living within my income, by staying current with regard to my financial obligations, and by not leaving unpaid debt behind me.

I will develop my gifts and skills of ministry through comprehensive reading, continuing education, serious study and attendance at assemblies and conferences.

I will be conscientious in my stewardship of God's creation dealing responsibly and generously with the management of God's gifts of time, talent, money and other resources.

I will give faithful consideration to including the Church regarding the disposition of my life's accumulated resources.

I will obtain permission when it is required and give credit appropriately when I use the work of others.

I will seek to be Christlike in my personal attitudes and conduct, embracing the diversity of humanity in regard to gender, ethnic origin, race, age, class or creed.

I will be responsible in my sexual behavior and demeanor by maintaining a high moral standard and exemplary conduct.

My Relationship To My Place Of Ministry

I will dedicate the disciplined use of the time, strength, vitality and energy God has given me for effective ministry.

I will offer biblically-based preaching and teaching that is both pastoral and prophetic.

I will maintain a respectful attitude toward other staff with which I serve, and work congenially in order to create a positive environment.

I will not undermine the work of my supervisor in multiple staff situations.

I will not misuse my role as a supervisor in multiple staff situations.

I will not seek gifts or special gratuities from members of the body to which I am accountable and I will exercise gracious caution in the receiving of gifts.

I will strive for impartiality among all the groups with whom I serve and will balance the needs of the larger Church with the needs of the local setting.

I will minister with evangelistic compassion in sharing the Christian gospel with the unchurched and maintain an attitude of respect toward members of other religious bodies.

I will be concerned for those with whom I have ministered and work for their well-being regardless of the circumstances when I am leaving a place of ministry.

My Relationship To The People I Serve

I will maintain the Christian standards set forth in this document in all visitation, counseling and other ministerial contacts.

I will be sensitive to the working patterns and differences of all persons.

I will not counsel beyond my expertise and will make referrals when indicated.

I will respect confidences and refrain from gossip.

I will encourage concerned persons to share directly and appropriately with those with whom they are in tension and/or with the responsible body.

I will be ethical in my sexual conduct. (See the Regional Policy On Clergy Sexual Conduct.)

My Relationship To Other Disciple Ministers

I will follow the relocation process appropriate to the type of position I am seeking.

I will negotiate compensation and other terms of call with only one congregation at a time.

I will not knowingly enter into harmful competition with other ministers.

I will serve and support my colleagues in ministry and their families.

I will be courteous to my predecessors when they return to visit and will be thoughtful of retired ministers.

I will refrain from speaking disparagingly about the work of my predecessor.

I will refrain from gossip about other ministers.

I will not exploit the problems or crises of other Disciple congregations.

I will be respectful of the good work of my colleagues in ministry regardless of the setting in which they minister.

I will respect other ministers as co-laborers in Christ even though I may differ with them.

**My Relationships In Situations Of:
Return To A Former Place Of Ministry,
Resident Membership In A Non-Pastoring Role, And In Retirement**

I will do ministerial duties including weddings and funerals only at the invitation of the present clergy.

I will not make frequent visits to a former place of ministry.

I will support my successors by refusing to interfere in the affairs of the places from which I have moved.

I will refrain from speaking disparagingly about the work of my successor.

I will give my pastor(s) loyal support.

**My Relationship To The Christian Church
(Disciples Of Christ)**

I will hold to my confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.

I will endeavor to know, claim and live out our shared identity and mission as set forth in the Preamble for The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

I will recognize and reaffirm my covenantal relationship within the congregational, regional and general manifestations of the church.

I will participate with my communion through mutual accountability as theological, ethical and moral perspectives are constantly being formed, reformed and informed.

I will cooperate in and be supportive of my communion's efforts to extend God's mission of witness and service to all people and the whole creation.

I affirm my loyalty to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

I will seek to know, understand and respect the various points of view within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

I will be knowledgeable about the actions of the district, regional and general assemblies of the church and when possible will participate in them.

I will serve in the broader life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and will encourage those with whom I minister to do likewise.

My Relationship To The Community

I will take my place as a participating member of my community, balancing civic responsibilities with those I have in my place of ministry.

I will take seriously my prophetic role in the community through issue-awareness and responsible community action and service.

I will be informed, respect just laws, vote my conscience and strive to influence government officials in working toward a just and moral responsible society.

I will lead those with whom I minister to be engaged in the community both corporately and individually.

I will use good judgment in all my relationships without compromising principles of Christian behavior.

I will be judicious in my acceptance of invitations to perform weddings and funerals of non-members.

I will be considerate of the working hours and work places of people and will not consume their time inappropriately.

My Relationship To The Church Universal

I will live out my ministry with the understanding that the Church is essentially, intentionally and constitutionally one.

I will participate in ecumenical structures and ministries recognizing that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a part of the community of communions.

I will order my participation in ecumenical structures and events in proportion to my responsibilities in my field of mission and ministry.

I will encourage unity and harmony among the various communions.

I will seek to understand the beliefs and practices of others.

I will refrain from unkind remarks about people who have different beliefs even though I may be constructively critical of their doctrine.

I will not proselytize members from other communions nor will I exploit the problems of crises of other communions.

I will present the witness of my communion in a manner not intentionally injurious to others.

I will be respectful and supportive of ministers of other communions serving and fellowshiping with them.

Date