



## **West Virginia Church of God**

# **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.

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### **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 positions 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.

### **MY PROFESSION:**

- I will seek to conduct myself consistently with my calling and my commitment as a man/woman of God.
- I will give full service to my congregation and will accept 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 service 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 COLLEAGUES:**

- I will not perform services in the area of responsibility of my colleague in the Christian ministry except upon his request and/or expression of concern.
- I will, upon my departure, recognize 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 the church fellowship unless approved by the pastor.

**MY DENOMINATION:**

- ⇒ I will cooperate with the personnel of my denomination on the district and the national levels and will offer responsible criticism in order that our common service in the Kingdom of God might be more effective.
- ⇒ I will not use my influence to alienate this church from its chosen denomination. I will resign immediately, should I cease to hold practices and principles commonly held by our denominational fellowship.
- ⇒ I covenant in the sight of God with my colleagues in the ministry to strive to keep this code of ministerial ethics.

**Signature of Minister:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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