

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE CODE OF MINISTERIAL ETHICS

As a minister of Jesus Christ, called by God to proclaim the Gospel, and gifted by the Spirit,

I dedicate myself to conduct my ministry in accord with the Statement of Beliefs of the North American Baptist Conference and the church to which I am called.

I will constantly prepare myself in body, mind and spirit for the task to which God has called me.

I will safeguard the good image of the Christian ministry by living honestly, not seeking special financial privileges or gratuities and avoiding embarrassing debts while giving faithfully to the work of the Lord.

I will, if a full-time minister, confer with church leaders before accepting remuneration for work other than that normally associated with the pastorate.

I will seek to build up the church without discrediting other churches or ministries.

I will balance my family commitments and church duties properly.

I will keep all appropriate confidences shared with me in counseling sessions and other ministry contexts except in cases where disclosure is permitted or required by law.

I will be truthful in my speech, never plagiarizing another's work or communicating gossip.

I will keep my life morally pure by refusing to engage in any form of pornography or become romantically or sexually involved in any relationship which is in violation of Biblical standards of morality.

I will exercise the authority of a servant-leader who influences others through love and understanding and who humbly acknowledges dependence upon God, putting the interests of others above my own.

I will, if I serve in an Associate Pastor role, support the leadership of the Senior Pastor and not undermine his ministry in public settings or private conversations with others.

I will, if serving with a multiple staff, show respect for other ministers and staff members and shall encourage and work with them as members of a team.

I will relate to other ministers with the respect that is due fellow servants of Jesus Christ and shall cooperate with them as God leads.

I will seek the fellowship of the pastors of the North American Baptist Conference.

I will encourage participation in the mission and ministry of the Conference and the Region and Association in which I serve.

I will not intentionally cause division within the congregation I serve.

If I resign or am asked to resign I will not seek to provide pastoral leadership for any new church that may develop in the same community unless approved by the Region or Association.

Upon my resignation, I will sever my pastoral relations with the church and shall not make pastoral contacts of any kind with the members of the church(es) whom I formally served without the knowledge and consent of the pastor(s).

I will obey the laws of my government as long as they do not conflict with the laws of God and will practice Christian citizenship without engaging in partisan or political activities that would discredit the integrity of the ministry.

I, _____, am in full and complete agreement with the North American Baptist Statement of Beliefs and Code of Ministerial Ethics and agree to them without reservation. I further covenant and pledge with my colleagues in the North American Baptist Conference ministry to keep the Code of Ministerial Ethics.

If at any time I should cease to agree with the Statement of Beliefs or the Code of Ministerial Ethics, I will resign my position as a minister with the North American Baptist Conference. I also acknowledge that, should I cease to agree with the Statement of Beliefs or act in such a manner as to violate the Code of Ministerial Ethics, this will be grounds for the withdrawal of my credentials as a minister within the North American Baptist Conference.

Signature _____ Date _____