

# MISSION NORTHEAST MINISTERIAL CODE OF ETHICS

We believe it is important in this day of questionable practices in public ministry to affirm our commitment to godliness and Christian ethics.

*In recognition of the high calling of God upon an individual to public ministry in the local church, I am firmly committed to and in agreement with the following principles of Christian ethics, and will endeavor to faithfully practice such as a minister of the Gospel and a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church:*

## I. MY PERSONAL LIFE

- Establish & maintain personal habits & disciplines of spiritual, mental, & physical growth & health that are consistent with Scriptural principles & with expectations I would have for members of my congregation.
- Faithfully provide for the physical, emotional & spiritual needs of my family according to Eph. 5 & I Tim. 3.
- Demonstrate personal purity & holiness in my relationships with others & in my personal habits.
- Be faithful in prayer & study of God's Word.
- Demonstrate honesty & integrity in the use of my finances & personal resources as a steward of God, & promote a healthy expectation by others in my profession.
- Cultivate a lifestyle that is honoring to Christ & presents a positive witness for the Lord Jesus Christ & His church among the unchurched and other believers.
- Minister as a servant, not lord of the church I serve, without selfish motivation, striving for unity at all times, refraining from any word or action that would divide the church, wholly committing myself to loving & impartial leadership that will build up, nurture, equip & encourage God's people toward growth, productivity & personal ministry.
- Guard the dignity & worth of former pastors in my speech, conduct, & attitudes.
- Work to build positive, constructive ties with other Bible-believing pastors & churches in my area based upon our common faith & purpose in the work of the kingdom of God, & to avoid territorial attitudes that would hinder the Spirit of God in this purpose.
- Honor in spirit the constitutional procedures of my church, preserving the participation of the congregation in important decisions, & providing for effective systems for doing business. When changes to the constitution need to be made, I will do so within established guidelines & with sensitivity.

## II. MY MINISTRY

- Strive always to conduct myself in ways that are appropriate for a man of God & a minister of Christ including my relationship & actions toward the opposite sex that might be viewed as questionable or suspicious.
- Respect confidentiality as sacred trusts, careful to not disclose information that would hurt others, unless in so doing I must protect the greater good (i.e. crime, abuse, personal danger).
- Perform my duties & responsibilities as a pastor with careful diligence, not slothful or using my position to take advantage of others or to solicit special favors.
- Safeguard the pulpit from which I am privileged to speak for God, being diligent in my preparation, carefully guarding against false teaching or intemperate attitudes that may dilute truth, & giving credit to the authors of any extensive material I use in my preaching/teaching ministry.
- Guard the relationships within former ministries where I have served, seeking to remove myself from involvement, issues or concerns that may impact a former church or the ministry of its current pastor.
- Solicit input & opinions of others with a teachable spirit so I may learn & grow in my leadership of the church.
- Candidate at only ONE church at a time, dealing fairly & without deceit with that church as well as the one I presently serve.

## III. MY DENOMINATION/ASSOCIATION

- Treat the Conservative Baptist Association as important in the history and preference of the church I serve, & therefore, worthy of my respect & participation.
- Encourage my church to financially support the various works & agencies of the Association.
- Offer my resignation if I am unable to affirm the doctrinal positions of the church I serve or the statement of faith of Mission Northeast.
- Submit willingly to the directives of my Board or congregation if I fall morally or ethically, & be willing to work with my CB brethren in whatever disciplinary processes they deem wise & necessary, including the possible surrender of my ordination credentials if required.

*I have read, subscribe to, and endorse wholeheartedly, without any reservation, the Mission Northeast Ministerial Code of Ethics.*

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Signed

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Date