

**A COVENANT OF CLERGY SEXUAL ETHICS**

*As a disciple of Jesus Christ, called by God to proclaim the gospel and gifted by the Spirit to minister to the church, I dedicate myself to conduct my ministry according to the ethical guidelines and principles set forth in scripture and this covenant, in order that my ministry may be acceptable to God, my service beneficial to the Christian community, and my life a witness to the world.*

*As a minister called to serve God and God's people, I commit myself to the following norms of ethical conduct, for which I am accountable to God, to my colleagues in ministry, and to the church in which I serve.*

- I will demonstrate sexual integrity in ministry by understanding, respecting, and observing the boundaries of sexual misconduct which include sexual relations outside of marriage, unwanted or inappropriate physical contact, all other sexually oriented or suggestive behaviors such as overt and covert seductive speech and gestures, and the use of pornography.
- I will nurture my physical, emotional, and spiritual health, maintain enriching friendships, and build strong relationships with my family.
- I will develop relationships with God, my spouse, and close friends which encourage accountability and protect against temptation.
- I will recognize the special power afforded me in the pastoral office by never abusing that power in ways that violate the personhood of another human being, by assuming responsibility for maintaining proper boundaries in church staff/church member relationships, and by acknowledging that the congregant is always in a vulnerable position.
- I will avoid all forms of sexual exploitation and/or harassment in my professional and social relationships, even if others invite such behavior or involvement.
- I will not seek or accept sexual favors.
- I will exercise good judgment in professional and private conduct by avoiding situations which create the appearance of sexual misconduct as decided by the congregation.
- I will assume responsibility to report any reliable evidence of sexual misconduct by another minister to the appropriate person or committee.
- I will submit to the policies and procedures of the church when an allegation of sexual misconduct has been made, recognizing the importance of justice and due process procedures.

As I seek to fulfill my responsibilities as a minister, I will strive to embody servant-leadership in all my relationships and to pattern my life and ministry after the example of Jesus Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Clergy Person

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Congregational Representative

*This covenant is provided by \_\_\_\_\_ as a resource for congregations to use and amend as appropriate to the church's context, tradition, and need.*