



Statement of Ethical Pastoral Conduct

Statement of Intent

The Statement of Ethical Pastoral Conduct has been created to provide a clear standard of conduct for those who are accredited by CBOQ and serve within positions of leadership and influence within the Christian community. As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and leaders within the church we covenant with God and one another to abide to a high standard of morality and ethics within our lives and ministries.

Standard Principles and Expectations

All vocational ministers accredited by CBOQ are representatives of the wider Christian community and of CBOQ. As a visible role model and servant leader, I agree to:

Live as a follower of Jesus Christ in my actions, attitudes and behaviours, recognizing my daily need for Christ's grace and forgiveness in my life and in the lives of others.

Honour the high calling to Christian ministry and leadership and endeavour to lead a godly and exemplary life.

Study with diligence and teach the scriptures with integrity, presenting the whole counsel of God's word in matters of faith, doctrine, ethics and morality.

Endeavour to grow as a pastor and leader to offer ongoing effectiveness in ministry and leadership.

Maintain strict confidentiality when asked or required, except in cases where disclosure is necessary to prevent harm to persons and/or is required by law.

Accept responsibility for my own spiritual, emotional, physical and mental health. I will seek the help of others when I discover the need for support, encouragement, counselling or exhortation, and similarly act with due care towards my family and friends.

Follow the directives of Galatians 6:1, if I become aware that one of my CBOQ ministry colleagues is "caught in sin", to gently but courageously encourage him/her to confess sin and take the necessary steps of repentance and restoration. If the ministry colleague remains unrepentant or unchanged in regards to their sinful behaviour, I will follow the directives of Matthew 18, contacting church leaders of that minister's congregation or the Executive Minister of CBOQ (and police if required by law) and inform them of the situation.

Critical Expectations

All vocational pastors and ministry leaders accredited by CBOQ are expected to uphold a high standard in terms of their conduct and lifestyle. Breach of a critical expectation may result in suspension of credentials and further disciplinary action. Detailed protocols in regards to discipline, reinstatement and restoration can be found in CBOQ Protocols for Discipline "Red Book". As a vocational minister accredited by CBOQ, I agree to:

Treat all people with dignity regardless of their gender, race, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, marital status, physical impairment or disability.

Not engage in aggressive or abusive behaviour.

Not engage in criminal activity of any kind. (This is not to curtail the peaceful conscientious objection to potential government action.)

Maintain healthy physical and emotional boundaries with those to whom I minister and with those I work alongside. There will be no sexual touching, innuendo, sexual or physical harassment or sexual/crass joking. I will honour healthy and appropriate physical and emotional boundaries (not becoming emotionally intimate) understanding the power inherent in the role of a minister.

Maintain a God-honouring and pure sexuality. I will not engage in extramarital, pre-marital, or same-sex sexual relationships or behaviour. I will avoid pornography.

When officiating in marriages, funerals, child dedications or other such services, I will seek to insure the spiritual integrity of these events, practicing them in accordance with the patterns and practices established for CBOQ by its member congregations.

Understand and observe my responsibilities in regards to the protection of children and vulnerable persons within my care, the church I serve, and the community at large.

Conduct all personal and professional financial affairs ethically and responsibly.

Refrain from illegal drug use and abuse of alcohol (drunkenness) and will seek immediate help for any addictive behaviours (drugs - legal or illegal, alcohol, gambling, pornography etc).

Consistently seek to encourage congregation and congregants toward loyalty to and support of CBOQ, and to serve harmoniously within the patterns and practices established for the CBOQ by its member congregations.

Serve humbly and not abuse the inherent power of the ministry position. I will refrain from any form of conduct that exploits another for my own advantage or the advantage of any third person.

Upon my retirement or resignation, I will seek to support the ministry of my successor(s) by refusing to interfere in the ministry of the church I formerly served. I will refrain from pastoral involvement (including opinion on the incumbent's decisions) except upon the clear consent of my successor(s) and church board.

