

Attachment 1

CODE OF SEXUAL ETHICS FOR MINISTERS

1. Ministers are representatives of God and the church, and as such are to be agents of healing and redemption. They are aware that a minister's sexual exploitation or abuse is an abuse of trust, an abuse of power and an abuse of the authority of a pastoral position. They accept their responsibility to define and maintain appropriate boundaries within their ministerial relationships.
2. Ministers are aware that their personal relationships and lives must also reflect healthy morals and sexuality. Spouse or child abuse, use of pornography, or other forms of immorality may also lead to discipline.
3. Ministers are aware that discipline for sexual misconduct and immorality involves both their ministerial credentials and their vocational status.
4. Ministers are aware of and willing to abide by church policies and disciplinary procedures to address sexual misconduct.
5. Ministers accept responsibility to call each other to account and to exercise biblical responsibility to confront colleagues concerning perceptions of inappropriate sexual relationships.
6. Ministers are aware of their calling as servants of God under the lordship of Jesus Christ, and from that they accept their responsibility for and accountability to people entrusted to their care.
7. Ministers accept the obligation to disclose information regarding previous sexual misconduct for which they have been called to account prior to formal candidacy for a new ministry position.

As a minister of Jesus Christ and as a representative of the church within its office of ministry, I accept and subscribe to these affirmations.

Date: _____

Witness _____ Signed: _____

Witness _____

For a boarder treatment of Ethics in Ministry, refer to A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership, Section V., page 106ff.

Attachment 2

In 1995 the General Conference Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Church adopted a *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*. In 1996 those denominations also published *A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership*. Refer to those documents for a description of the church's current ethical guidelines regarding sexuality.

A minister who engages in sexualized behavior within a professional relationship abuses the minister's power and authority. Within a professional relationship, a minister shall not permit sexualized behavior that includes actions such as the following.

- Unusual attention from a minister, including such things as gifts, frequent social telephone calls, letters, private visits or the maintenance of a special "spiritualized" partnership.
- Flirtatious propositions, talk or innuendo.
- Graphic or degrading comments about another person's appearance, dress or anatomy.
- Display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures.
- Sexual jokes or offensive gestures.
- Intrusive sexual or other questions about the person's personal life.
- Explicit descriptions of a minister's own sexual experiences.
- Abuse of familiarities or diminutives such as "honey," "baby" or "dear."
- Inappropriate or unwanted physical contact such as touching, hugging, pinching, patting or kissing.
- Whistling or catcalls.
- Leering.

Reference: **Justice Making: The Church Responds to Clergy Misconduct**, a companion piece to *Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure*