



STATEMENT OF ETHICS FOR PASTORAL TEAM MEMBERS

Preamble

Church leaders must submit themselves to the Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to guide them in the application of the ethical principles of Scripture. Christian conduct must be based on the life and teachings of Jesus, the teachings of the New Testament writers and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The New Testament calls for an even higher standard of reputation, ethics and conduct for leaders than for the general membership of the church.

Therefore, as a servant of Jesus Christ, and member of a Grace Communion International pastoral team, I agree to commit and dedicate myself to conduct my service to the congregation according to the spirit of the ethical guidelines and principles that follow. Based on these standards, I will strive to conduct my ministry in a manner acceptable to God and the church in a manner beneficial to all people.

Ethical Commitment

- If I have opportunity to preach or teach, I will be a responsible teacher giving adequate time to prayer, study and preparation. I will give sermons, or other presentations, that are biblically based, in theological agreement with the church, clearly communicated and relevant to the life of the church.
- I will strive to practice Matthew 18 in interpersonal conflicts. If I hear accusations or gossip about a member or fellow leader, I will first contact that member about the allegations if facts and circumstances permit and deem such conduct reasonable and prudent. I understand that it is unethical to pass along such accusations, or make decisions, without first talking to the accused. I will abide by the terms and spirit of the church's current published grievance procedure.
- I will be trustworthy in all areas of confidentiality.
- I will respect the dignity of members I serve. I will strive not to embarrass, humiliate or intimidate a member, publicly or privately. If I am called upon to give guidance or correction, I will strive to do so with concern, gentleness and love.
- I will not use my place on the team to influence or coerce members for my personal benefit.
- I will be above reproach in the management of church resources.
- Where I am responsible for doing so, I will delegate positions within the congregation responsibly considering the spiritual gifts of each member, as well as Congregational endorsement.

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- Being a leader and pastoral team member of Grace Communion International places a responsibility of loyalty to church headquarters and ecclesiastical and administrative supervisors. This means:
- I will patiently and prayerfully study all doctrinal materials presented by church headquarters in order to be equipped properly to serve the local congregation.
- I will support and carry out all administrative decisions and policies of my ecclesiastical supervisors. If I cannot in good conscience do this in regard to any matter, I will immediately notify my ecclesiastical supervisors.
- I will not publicly endorse doctrines contrary to the official statements of the headquarters of the church.
- I will support the various ministries and focuses of the church, locally, nationally, and worldwide. It is my responsibility should I disagree with, or not understand, a particular point or policy, to discuss this with my ecclesiastical supervisors.
- In particular, I will support our endeavours, worship, small groups and house churches, women's ministry, youth ministry, and the particular themes or focus chosen by the church at various times.
- I will not share disagreements with church policy or doctrine with members.
- I understand that it is unethical to cause division in my congregation.
- I will not counsel or give advice beyond my area of expertise.
- I will not attempt to enable or do for others what they should be responsible for doing for themselves, especially if those persons are creating a dependency that is unethical.
- If, at some time I cease to be a pastoral team member, I will make my departure as smooth as possible, causing the least amount of conflict for the local congregation and the church.
- As a pastoral team member of Grace Communion International, I have a responsibility to respect and honour my colleagues in the ministry. I will strive to cooperate with and support my fellow pastoral team members and ministers as we work together to further the work of Christ in the church.
- I will strive to grow in expertise and knowledge through educating myself by reading books and magazines pertinent to my service in the church.
- I will encourage evaluation of my service and its effectiveness from members of my congregations, my peers and my ecclesiastical supervisors.
- I will cooperate with, and seek assistance from, my ecclesiastical supervisors in the periodic review of my pastoral gifts, accountability and practices.

I, _____ commit myself to conduct my pastoral team duties in accord with this statement of ethics, and will continually seek God's help, and that of my ecclesiastical supervisors, other ministers, my fellow pastoral team members, and fellow members, in so doing.

Signed: _____ *Dated:* _____

Witnesses: _____