



## CODE OF ETHICS United Pentecostal Church International

### Preface

*Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love,  
being of one accord, of one mind.  
(Philippians 2:2).<sup>1</sup>*

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship,  
and in breaking of bread, and in prayers (Acts 2:42).*

The United Pentecostal Church International places a high value on unity. Its Fundamental Doctrine closes with this affirmation: "We shall endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit until we all come into the unity of the faith."<sup>2</sup> Oneness believers should seek to be one, caring for and admonishing one another.

Unity is precious. Christ's abiding prayer request is that His followers would be one (John 17:21). Before the Spirit fell at Pentecost, the disciples were unified (Acts 1:14). When the first message was preached by Apostle Peter, the other apostles stood shoulder to shoulder with him, and this unity continued into a true community and fellowship (Acts 2:11, 42).

This Code of Ethics fosters unity by clearly delineating "those things which are most surely believed among us" (Luke 1:1, KJV). We are part of His Body and labor in His Vineyard (1 Corinthians 12:27, Matthew 20:1). Cooperation with one another is not an option but represents a vital part of our witness to this world (John 13:35). Described in this document is the conduct expected of a credentialed minister of the Gospel in five areas: devotional/missional, doctrinal/theological, ethical, moral, and financial/stewardship. Notwithstanding the language herein, all ministers are expected to abide by their respective district's specific policies and local laws, as applicable. This Code and the expectations herein are drawn from Scripture and various portions of the UPCI Manual but are intentionally not exhaustive in an effort to support its longevity and spirit from which it was written.

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *King James Bible* or the *New King James Bible*.

<sup>2</sup> Articles of Faith, Fundamental Doctrine. Unless otherwise indicated, all footnoted references are to the Manual of the United Pentecostal Church International.



## **Devotional/Missional: I Commit to Love God and Others**

*Owe no man any thing, but to love one another:  
for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*  
(Romans 13:8)

As a minister of the Gospel, I seek to honor God and His calling on my life through loving Him and all those who bear His image. I wholeheartedly make these commitments.

1. *My commitment to God:* I will seek to love God and place Him first in my life, thoughts, prayer, worship, fasting, giving, behavior, and ministry. This seeks to fulfill the first and greatest commandment (Matthew 22:38).
2. *My commitment to others:* I will seek to show the love of Christ to all individuals I encounter, preferring, respecting, and honoring them. This is in fulfillment of the second great commandment (Matthew 22:39).
3. *My commitment to fellow believers:* I will honor the Body of Christ by treating each member as my brother or my sister and “giving preference to one another” (Romans 12:10). This fulfills Christ’s last or “new” commandment (John 13:34).
4. *My commitment to fellow ministers:* I will honor those who labor with me in the Gospel and obey the admonition to “love the brotherhood” (1 Peter 2:17). I will seek to do nothing to damage another minister but will esteem their calling and ministry more than my own.
5. *My commitment to the prior generation:* I will hold in trust the message and blessings delivered to me from my elders who taught me to “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding” (Proverbs 23:23).
6. *My commitment to future generations:* I pledge to mentor and transmit this message and teachings to future leaders who will faithfully serve their generation (2 Timothy 2:2, Acts 13:36).
7. *My commitment to the world:* I will unite with my believing brothers and sisters to spread the only saving Gospel of Jesus Christ near and far “to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6).<sup>3</sup> This is the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-16).

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<sup>3</sup> General Constitution, Purpose, I. Missions Concept, X.



## **Doctrinal/Theological: I Devote Myself to the Word and Apostolic Teachings**

*In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works;  
in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech  
that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed,  
having nothing evil to say of you  
(Titus 2:7-8).*

*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all  
long suffering and doctrine.  
(2 Timothy 4:2)*

As a minister of the Gospel, I devote myself to studying and “holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain” (Philippians 2:16). These are my sincere devotions.

1. *My devotion to the Word:* I believe the Bible is inspired by God, infallible, and profitable for all areas of life. It is the God-authorized basis for all doctrine, faith, instruction, and a comprehensive worldview. Through the anointing of the Spirit, I can understand, present, and apply the Word.<sup>4</sup>
2. *My devotion to the Salvation Message:* The Bible standard of full salvation is repentance, baptism in water by immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. Salvation is by grace through faith based on the atonement provided by Jesus Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection.<sup>5</sup>
3. *My devotion to the Oneness Message:* I believe in and teach that there is one God who revealed Himself as Father; through His Son in redemption; and as the Holy Spirit by emanation.<sup>6</sup> This one true God was made flesh, and only in the Name of Jesus may salvation be found.<sup>7</sup>
4. *My devotion to Holiness:* I believe and teach holiness to be intrinsic to the nature and character of God and seek to be godly in my thoughts, words, appearance, relationships, and behavior, looking for the soon Coming of our Lord.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Articles of Faith, Preamble.

<sup>5</sup> Articles of Faith, Fundamental Doctrine. Atonement. The Grace of God.

<sup>6</sup> Articles of Faith, The One True God.

<sup>7</sup> Articles of Faith, The Son of God. The Name. Position Paper, The True Humanity of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> Articles of Faith, Holiness. Position Papers: Holiness. The Coming of the Lord.



5. *My devotion to Truth:* In accordance with the General Constitution, I will not teach the doctrines of unconditional eternal security, the annihilation of the wicked, the divine flesh of Christ, or any form of preterism.<sup>9</sup>
6. *My devotion to the Apostolic Model:* I believe that the New Testament church modeled the path forward for each generation through its practices, including prayer, fellowship, breaking of bread, laying on of hands, working of miracles, gifts of the Spirit, and the five-fold ministry (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 6:2; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28; and Ephesians 4:11).<sup>10</sup>
7. *My devotion to the Apostolic teachings:* I believe, practice, teach, and apply the Apostolic teachings found in the UPCI Articles of Faith and will affirm this biennially or voluntarily forfeit my credentials or face disciplinary action through the Judicial Procedure.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> General Constitution, UPCI Credentials (VII, 2, 2). Position Papers: The Coming of the Lord. The True Humanity of Jesus Christ.

<sup>10</sup> Foreword. Article of Faith, Divine Healing.

<sup>11</sup> Articles of Faith. General Constitution, Loyalty, VII, 7, 4a.



## **Ethical: I Pledge Myself to Godly Ethics** <sup>12</sup>

*And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise  
(Luke 6:31).*

*For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this;  
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself  
(Galatians 5:14).*

*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,  
full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy  
(James 2:17).*

My treatment of others is a reflection of my love for God. To say I love God and to mistreat others is to “become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal” (1 Corinthians 13:1). I pledge to treat all people, especially my fellow believers and ministers, in ways that honor Christ.

1. *As a Follower of Jesus Christ:* I pledge to abide in Christ and to walk as He walked (John 15:4-5, 1 John 2:6). In so doing, I promise to develop the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and to model a Christlike behavior in my words, actions, and relationships as seen in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12).
2. *As a Credentialed Minister:* I pledge to behave in such a way as never to bring shame but to magnify the office of the ministry and to unite my fellow ministers. I will always conduct myself in a manner becoming the ministry.
  - a. I will safeguard the good name of the ministry, speak the truth in love, and live honestly.<sup>13</sup>
  - b. If I am not actively engaged in pastoring, evangelizing, or itinerant teaching, I will have a regular place of worship, work in harmony with its UPCI pastor, and support the local church financially. I will seek to become actively engaged in the ministry or forfeit my credentials.<sup>14</sup>
  - c. If I am a Local Licensed minister not actively pastoring, I will work under the supervision of my local pastor.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> “Ethics” is defined as the respect, consideration, godly communication, fellowship, and other such appropriate behaviors we apply and maintain in our relationships with others, especially ministers and our entire fellowship.

<sup>13</sup> Position Paper, Ministerial Code of Ethics.

<sup>14</sup> General Constitution, Faithfulness and Participation, VII, 7, 8a. VII, 6, 3.

<sup>15</sup> General Constitution, Local License VII, 3, 3. Validity of License VII, 6, 5.



- d. I will affiliate with the district in which I hold my license and cooperate with the same.<sup>16</sup>
- e. I will not hold meetings in a community without consulting the appropriate authority.<sup>17</sup>
- f. I will not attempt to start a work without written permission of the district board.<sup>18</sup>
- g. I will not minister in a church held in question without permission of the appropriate authority. <sup>19</sup> I will not preach for a pastor who is under question.<sup>20</sup>
- h. I will not have a relationship with individuals from a different congregation without contacting the pastor first for approval.<sup>21</sup>
- i. I will keep privileged communication in confidence.<sup>22</sup> (This does not apply to mandatory reporting for abuse).
- j. I will be welcoming to all and not engage in racist or bigoted speech or behavior.<sup>23</sup>
- k. I will seek to resolve conflicts with other ministers biblically and not resort to a court of law.<sup>24</sup>
- l. I will not seek to impugn the character of anyone in the ministry or those involved in a judicial procedure. Further, I will not attempt to intimidate, obstruct, or threaten the recrimination of anyone involved in a judicial procedure.<sup>25</sup>
- m. I will act in a way to be free from any accusation of bias or conflict of interest.<sup>26</sup>
- n. I will notify the appropriate officials of my intent to be considered for a pastorate of a local church.<sup>27</sup>
- o. I will not compete with another minister for a call to pastorate in an unethical manner.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> General Constitution, Faithfulness and Participation, VII, 7, 8b.

<sup>17</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 2a-b.

<sup>18</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 2b-c.

<sup>19</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 2e.

<sup>20</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 6c1.

<sup>21</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 2f.

<sup>22</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 2j.

<sup>23</sup> Position Paper, Racial & Ethnic Affirmation.

<sup>24</sup> Judicial Procedure, Introduction.

<sup>25</sup> Judicial Procedure, Introduction.

<sup>26</sup> Policy, Conflict of Interest.

<sup>27</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 2k.

<sup>28</sup> Position Paper, Ethics (Ministerial).



- p. I will not accept the pastorate of a UPCI church unless I agree with the Articles of Faith and the Constitution of the General church body.<sup>29</sup>
  - q. I will respect the existence, integrity, and self-governance of each local church, including the congregation's power to select its pastor and transact all other business.<sup>30</sup>
  - r. I will communicate in advance with the appropriate authority when ministering internationally.<sup>31</sup>
  - s. I will adhere to the UPCI platform and policy guidelines in ministering in an organizational function.<sup>32</sup>
  - t. I will not hold credentials simultaneously with another apostolic organization.<sup>33</sup>
3. *As a Pastor:* I pledge to behave in a manner that becomes the ministry and brings honor to the Chief Shepherd and Overseer of all souls (1 Peter 2:25).
- a. I will preach and teach the Word of God, feed the flock of God, be an example, and be prepared for every good work.<sup>34</sup>
  - b. I will exercise the authority of a spiritual leader rather than that of a dictator. I will seek to minister rather than be ministered to, placing service above salary and personal recognition, and the church's unity above my welfare.<sup>35</sup>
  - c. I will seek to lead my church to accept its full responsibility without discrediting other churches or soliciting members from the same. I will not cast negative reflections on other ministers.<sup>36</sup>
  - d. I will not attempt to alienate the congregation from the organization. Should my convictions or beliefs change, I will choose a path of honor and withdraw from the UPCI and as pastor of the local assembly.<sup>37</sup>
  - e. I will provide a letter or other communication upon request for members transferring to other assemblies and require a letter or other communication for those transferring from other assemblies as provided by the local church government.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Position Paper, Ethics (Ministerial).

<sup>30</sup> General Constitution, Local Assemblies, XVIII, 1, 2; XVIII, 2, 1-4.

<sup>31</sup> Policy, International Ministry Policy.

<sup>32</sup> Policy, Platform Policy and Guidelines.

<sup>33</sup> General Constitution, Credentials: VII, 2, 7; Policy: Dual Membership policy.

<sup>34</sup> Local Church Government, III, 3, 9a-e.

<sup>35</sup> Position Paper, Ethics (Ministerial).

<sup>36</sup> Position Paper, Ethics (Ministerial).

<sup>37</sup> Position Paper, Ethics (Ministerial).

<sup>38</sup> Local Church Government, II, 2, 9; II, 3, 1-3.



- f. I will not seek to relocate a church into an area without proper approval.<sup>39</sup>
- g. When I retire from pastoring or resign as pastor of a local church, I will sever all connection with the church and its members unless I have my successor's consent or the individuals are related to me.<sup>40</sup>
4. *As a Full-Time Evangelist or Teacher:* In my ministry, which involves multiple congregations, pastors, ministers, and church members, I pledge to behave ethically to all in a manner becoming the ministry. I will affiliate with a district and section and cooperate with the same.<sup>41</sup>
5. *As a North American Missions Church Planter.* I pledge to cooperate with the district and general policies for church planting, Metro Missions, and Christmas for Christ in reaching my area with the Gospel in a manner becoming the ministry.<sup>42</sup>
6. *As a Global Missions Approved Missionary.* I pledge to labor alongside my fellow ministers and missionaries to carry the Gospel to the whole world. I will live up to the high standards outlined in the Global Missions Policy and the UPCI Bylaws and Constitution and work peacefully and harmoniously with all ministers, missionaries, and Global Missions leaders in a manner becoming the ministry.<sup>43</sup>
7. *As a minister involved in or representing an Endorsed Institution.* I pledge to work harmoniously, collaborate with the other endorsed institutions, and abide by the general and specific ministry policies outlined in the Office of Education and Endorsement for Chaplains, Higher Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Ministry Training in a manner becoming the ministry.<sup>44</sup>
8. *As an organizational official on a section, district, or general level.* I pledge to fulfill all ethical requirements of my office, to be accountable to my fellow ministers, and to be an example to others in a manner becoming the ministry.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 2d.

<sup>40</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 2g.

<sup>41</sup> General Constitution, Faithfulness and Participation, VII, 8(c) (d).

<sup>42</sup> General Constitution, NAM, Purpose, XII, 1. Metro Missions, XII, 13. Policy, North American Missions, 1 & 2.

<sup>43</sup> General Constitution, Agreement, XI, 21.

<sup>44</sup> Policy, Office of Education and Endorsement, 1, 3, 5, 7-11.

<sup>45</sup> Position Paper, Church Government, Ministry, Paragraph 5.



## Moral:

### **I Commit Myself to Biblical Morals and Principles** <sup>46</sup>

*But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints  
(Ephesians 5:3).*

*If a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. A bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict  
(Titus 1:6-9).*

The United Pentecostal Church International exists to evangelize the world and “to produce and maintain a morally clean ministry and strong fellowship.”<sup>47</sup> Historically, those teaching others the difference between the holy and unholy had more stringent requirements (Ezekiel 44:15-31). Similarly, today’s ministry is a high calling requiring a greater commitment or a “stricter judgment” (James 3:1). As a God-called, credentialed minister, I commit to living a life marked by honesty, transparency, modesty, humility, graciousness, and a personal quest to please God in all ways.

1. *My commitment to personal integrity.* I commit to conduct myself at all times and in all settings with ethical and moral integrity as befitting God's high calling (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9). Failure to do so will bring dishonor to the Lord and His Cause and may result in appropriate disciplinary action.<sup>48</sup>

I will honor my body as the temple of the Holy Ghost and will not abuse my temple through the use or misuse of illicit or non-illicit substances, intoxicants, or anything else (1 Corinthians 6:12, Ephesians 5:27, 1 Thessalonians 4:4).

2. *My commitment to being a godly influence.* I recognize that my eyes affect my heart (Lamentations 3:51) and that I should set my affections and gaze on things above and not on things below.<sup>49</sup> I commit to living a separate life regarding media, music, entertainment, and worldly sports and amusements.<sup>50</sup>
3. *My commitment to godliness in appearance.* I understand that modesty is a biblical principle that applies to dress and lifestyle. I will uphold the organization’s position on holiness, avoiding immodest attire, ornamental

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<sup>46</sup> “Morals” are construed as those guiding principles, standards, and personal behaviors that are rooted in Scripture.

<sup>47</sup> General Constitution, I, Purpose.

<sup>48</sup> General Constitution, Integrity, VII, 7, 1a.

<sup>49</sup> General Constitution, Integrity, VII, 7, 1c.

<sup>50</sup> Article of Faith, Holiness.

jewelry, and makeup.<sup>51</sup> I will further seek to maintain the gender distinctions in dress, hair, and appearance.<sup>52</sup>

4. *My commitment to godliness in the use of technology.* I will endeavor to use technology (computers, the internet, social media, and other forms of technology) in a manner that is pleasing to God.<sup>53</sup>
5. *My commitment to maintaining a pure ministry.* I recognize that a ministry pleasing to God begins with me but extends to my fellowship with other ministers who seek to please God in all they do. “As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend” (Proverbs 27:17).
  - a. I will encourage and exhort my fellow ministers to live in ways that please God (Hebrews 10:24-25).
  - b. I will not ask a minister outside of my church who has been dropped under question to speak, nor will I speak at a church for a minister dropped under question except for a wedding, funeral, or baby dedication.<sup>54</sup>
  - c. I will not appoint a person who has been dropped under question to occupy a position of honor, such as associate pastor or assistant pastor.<sup>55</sup>
  - d. I will not sign the license application for a candidate for ministry who I know fails to meet the biblical and organizational qualifications.
6. *My commitment to a biblical view of marriage.* I commit to the biblical understanding of marriage and practicing the same:
  - a. Marriage is between one man and one woman.<sup>56</sup>
  - b. Marriage is a microcosm of Christ’s love for His bride, the church (Ephesians 5:25). Thus, it is a sacred institution designed to glorify God.<sup>57</sup>
  - c. I will love my spouse, children, and family as Christ loves the church and will not engage in any form of abuse, including, but not limited to: physical violence, threats of physical violence, persecution, sexual mistreatment, reviling, speaking evil, or other abuses of power and/or control (Ephesians 6:9, 1 Peter 2:23, James 4:11).<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Article of Faith, Holiness. General Constitution, Integrity, VII, 7, 1b. Position Paper, Holiness.

<sup>52</sup> Position Paper, Gender Distinctions, The Application.

<sup>53</sup> General Constitution, Integrity, VII, 7, 1c. Position Papers: Computer and the Internet. Media Technology. Social Media Use.

<sup>54</sup> General Constitution, VII, 7, 6c1.

<sup>55</sup> General Constitution, VII, 7, 6c2.

<sup>56</sup> Position Paper, Biblical Ideal of Marriage and Family. Church Resources, Facilities Use Policy.

<sup>57</sup> Position Paper, Biblical Ideal of Marriage and Family. Church Resources, Facilities Use Policy.

<sup>58</sup> Position Papers: Abuse and Sexual Misconduct.

- d. A believer should only marry in the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:39, 2 Corinthians 6:14).<sup>59</sup> However if a believer is married to an unbeliever, he or she should maintain the marriage if possible (1 Corinthians 7:12-14, 20).
  - e. Marriage is ideally meant to last a lifetime since God makes the marriage partners one flesh (Genesis 2:22-24, Matthew 19:6) and God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16).
  - f. If, for reasons of sexual immorality, a marriage is terminated, ministers are encouraged to remain single.<sup>60</sup> If a minister is the innocent party in a divorce and chooses to remarry, he or she must follow the proper procedures to remarry.<sup>61</sup>
7. *My commitment to a biblical view of sexual morality.* I commit to the biblical view of sexual morality and practice the same.
- a. Sexual relations are confined between a husband and a wife within a monogamous marriage (Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 7:1-5).
  - b. Like other works of darkness, sexual sin takes on many forms and appearances: dwelling on or participating in impure thoughts, fantasies, exhibitionism, pornography, lascivious speech and conduct, improper language and texts, voyeurism, or the viewing of improper materials are some examples (Mark 7:21-23).<sup>62</sup>
  - c. Sexual immorality, as defined in Scripture, is uniting with the flesh of another outside of matrimony (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). This includes adultery, premarital sex or cohabitation, homosexuality, polygamy, incest, fornication, prostitution, pedophilia, sexual molestation of minors, bestiality, or any other activity deemed sexually immoral by the district board from a biblical perspective.<sup>63</sup>
  - d. I recognize that to commit sexual immorality is to sin against God and bring reproach to the ministry. I also acknowledge that to condone or minimize such sin brings dishonor to the Body of Christ. Sexual immorality is a basis for forfeiting one's credentials with the UPCI.
8. *My commitment to God as the Author of life.* I serve the God who gives and takes away (Job 1:21). I oppose practices and worldviews that place man in the role of removing life, such as abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, assisted suicide, genocide, or other similar practices.<sup>64</sup> I recognize that our organization has

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<sup>59</sup> Article of Faith, Marriage and Divorce.

<sup>60</sup> Article of Faith, Marriage and Divorce.

<sup>61</sup> General Constitution, Marriage and Divorce, Innocent Party, VII, 8.

<sup>62</sup> Position Paper: Holiness, "Inward and Outward Holiness".

<sup>63</sup> General Constitution, Sexually Immoral Conduct, VII, 9, 1. Position Paper, The Biblical View of Human Sexuality. Resources, Facilities Use Policy and Statement of Principles.

<sup>64</sup> Position Papers: Abortion. Human Life.



various viewpoints regarding conscientious scruples, such as capital punishment, the right to bear arms, war, and the like. We all affirm respect for life, exercise restraint when the use of force is required, and comply with all pertinent laws, at the same time recognizing that the laws of God transcend the laws of secular governments.<sup>65</sup>

9. *My commitment to the Separation of Genders.* God made humans in His image, male and female (Genesis 5:2). Because of this, I oppose the practices of same-sex marriage, cross-dressing, gender reassignment treatments, self-identification of opposing or non-binary genders, self-assigned pronouns, and the attempts to confuse the genders.<sup>66</sup>
10. *My commitment to creating a safe, healthy church atmosphere.* As a minister entrusted with God's flock, I commit to creating a safe, healthy church atmosphere for all people, especially minors.<sup>67</sup>
11. *My commitment to protecting the defenseless.* I commit to protecting the most vulnerable in my sphere of influence: those in the womb, minors, the elderly, those with disabilities, the infirm, and the marginalized. I will not hesitate to be a voice for the defenseless and to report known or suspected abuse promptly as required by law and/or ethical standards (Matthew 7:12).<sup>68</sup>
12. *My commitment to morality and a life of holiness.* I commit to believing in and practicing the biblical view of morality and will endeavor to live above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:6-7).

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<sup>65</sup> Article of Faith, Conscientious Scruples. Position Paper: Human Life.

<sup>66</sup> Position Papers: Gender Distinction. Position Paper, The Biblical View of Human Sexuality.

<sup>67</sup> Suggested Sample Child Protection Policy.

<sup>68</sup> Judicial Procedure, Sexual Abuse, I, 1, 23a-e. Position Paper, Abuse and Sexual Misconduct.



## **Financial/Stewardship**

### **I Pledge Myself to Diligence in Finances and Stewardship**

*Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away  
(1 Peter 5:2-4).*

*Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust..."  
(1 Timothy 6:17-20)*

*He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.  
(Luke 16:10).*

The earth is the Lord's, but He expects us to be stewards of His possessions (Genesis 1:29, 2:15; Psalm 24:1-2). Our stewardship of tangible and intangible assets reveals our priorities and the condition of our hearts (Matthew 6:19-21). Investing our time, talent, and treasure in the Kingdom is eternal and is richly rewarded (Luke 21:1-4, Acts 10:31, Matthew 25:14-45).

As a steward, I recognize that I hold all things in trust. I pledge to be diligent in my finances and stewardship of God's resources.

- 1. I pledge to be a good example by faithfully tithing and giving offerings as the Lord prospers me.<sup>69</sup>*
- 2. I pledge to be responsible for my financial obligations to the organization. I will pay my organizational dues and support my district's financial plan.<sup>70</sup>*

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<sup>69</sup> Article of Faith, Tithing. General Constitution, Faithfulness and Participation, VII, 8, a.

<sup>70</sup> General Constitution, Dues, VII, 7, 3a-d.

3. *I pledge to safeguard the good name of the ministry.* I promise to live honestly, within my means, avoid gambling, and exercise good stewardship to support myself and my family during active ministry and in retirement.<sup>71</sup>
4. *I pledge to be accountable for maintaining accurate information with the district and world headquarters.* I will keep the district and world headquarters apprised of my address, billing information, and transfer status.<sup>72</sup>
5. *I pledge to be generous and to seek generosity.* Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). I strive to be generous in my support of the local church and organizational causes.<sup>73</sup>
6. *I pledge to follow the laws and regulations on ministerial compensation, including retirement benefits.* The rules for ministerial compensation should be studied and applied in Canada and the United States. I promise to follow these laws and exercise good stewardship in this area.<sup>74</sup>
7. *I pledge to hold all church and/or organization assets in trust (i.e., fiduciary relationship).*
  - a. As a credentialed minister, I will not be the sole trustee of the property of a local church.<sup>75</sup>
  - b. As a credentialed minister who serves in an official capacity for a church, nonprofit organization, endorsed institution, or organizational office at a general, district, or section level, I pledge to make decisions for the betterment of the body and not for personal gain and to comply with the local, state (provincial) and national laws in this duty.<sup>76</sup> Further, I will cooperate with a conflict of interest policy designed to promote the fairness and appearance of fairness in decision-making.<sup>77</sup>
  - c. As a pastor or member of a church board, district board/committee, or organizational board/committee, I will safeguard the assets and care for the business affairs of the church with diligence.<sup>78</sup>
  - d. As a pastor or member of a church board, I will diligently observe the law in adopting a form of local church government not in conflict with

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<sup>71</sup> Position Papers, Ethics (Ministerial). Gambling. Resources, Organizational Meeting of First Board of Directors, 9, 11. Minutes of Organizational Meeting of Board of Directors (Canada), 11, c.

<sup>72</sup> General Constitution, Transfers, VII, 7, 9a. Church Resources, Minister Information Form.

<sup>73</sup> General Constitution, Missions Concept, X, 1, 1e. District Constitution, Local Church Government Guidelines, III, 2, 2.

<sup>74</sup> Resources: Appendix B (Canada), Notes on Pastor's compensation. Organizational Meeting, 9-11.

<sup>75</sup> General Constitution, Ethics, VII, 7, 2i.

<sup>76</sup> General Church Resources, Resolutions for all Churches (Canada). Corporate Purposes.

<sup>77</sup> Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy.

<sup>78</sup> Local Church Government, Pastor III, 3, 9a-e. Church Board, III, 4, 1-2. District Constitution, District Board, II, 5, 1-2. General Constitution: Ladies Ministries, Safeguard of Funds, XV, 9, 1-2; Men's Ministries, Safeguard of Funds, XVII, 10, 1-2.



the constitution of the general organization. Further, I commit to operating the local assembly by those bylaws.<sup>79</sup>

- e. As a pastor, church board, or nonprofit organization member, I will adopt and follow an accountable expense reimbursement policy as required by law and/or bylaws.<sup>80</sup>
- f. As a pastor or member of a church board or nonprofit, in the event of the dissolution of a nonprofit organization, I will diligently observe the laws, both federal and state, as well as the church and organizational bylaws on the proper distribution of assets to another religious nonprofit organization. I will not use my influence to deliberately close one church for the benefit of another except with the consent of the district board.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> General Constitution, Local Church Government, XVIII, 2, 2-3.

<sup>80</sup> Church Resources, Organizational Meeting, Accountable Reimbursement, 12.

<sup>81</sup> General Constitution, Local Church Government, XVIII, 2, 2-3.



# CODE OF ETHICS AFFIRMATION COVENANT

## FOR CREDENTIALLED MINISTERS

### OF THE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

#### Statement of Ministerial Compliance:

“Credentialed UPCI ministers are expected to conduct themselves at all times and in all settings with ethical and moral integrity as befitting the high calling of God. (See 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.) Failure to do so may subject a UPCI minister to disciplinary action by the applicable district board per the guidelines of the UPCI Judicial Procedure.”<sup>82</sup>

*As a minister of Jesus Christ, having accepted the call to leadership, I covenant with God to conduct my life and my ministry in accordance with and in the spirit of Scripture and the ethical guidelines and principles set forth in this code of ethics, 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.*

*In affirmation of this covenant, I commit to my fellow UPCI ministers that I will endeavor to live morally, as taught in Scripture; ethically, giving respect and regard to our fellowship; and in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the United Pentecostal Church International, faithfully upholding its purposes and ideals. As an expression of my earnest covenant to God and commitment to our fellowship, I affix my signature below.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby affirm that:

1. I commit to love God and others;
2. I devote myself to the Word and apostolic teachings;
3. I pledge myself to godly ethics;
4. I commit myself to biblical morals and principles;
5. I pledge myself to diligence in finances and stewardship.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>82</sup> General Constitution, VII, 7, 1a.