



THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA

Code of Ethics & Professional Practice, including those engaged in Pastoral Counseling

NOTE: The use of “whom we serve” specifically refers to those who have entered into a Pastoral Counseling relationship with an Interfaith Christian Minister on a fee for hire or gratis basis.

PREAMBLE

All ordained clergy of The Church Of Interfaith Christians, USA do hereby affirm this Code of Ethics and Professional Practice as their standard of conduct and responsibility in the exercise of their ministry.

Clergy will commit themselves to a conduct that reflects the ideal of ministers in the service of Jesus Christ and His people.

THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA adheres to a form of Pastoral Counseling Ministry that honors those whom they serve as the expert in their own lives and work, and encourages all people whom it serves to strive towards creativity, resourcefulness and wholeness. Standing on this foundation, the Interfaith Christian minister’s responsibility is to:

Discover, clarify and align with what those who are served want to achieve.

Encourage those who are served into self-discovery.

Elicit greatness in those whom we serve.

In the role of Pastoral Counselor, when advice is given to those whom we serve, and it is deemed appropriate by them, we shall hold them accountable for the actions they have agreed to perform.

Clergy will respect confidential information shared among colleagues and will keep sacred those private utterances offered up by persons during pastoral services; acknowledging that clergy are legally and morally bound

to report certain kinds of activities when there is evidence of abuse of minors, the elderly, the disabled and the physically or mentally incompetent.

I will respect the confidentiality of those whom I serve, except as otherwise authorized by those whom I serve or as required by law.

I will obtain agreement from those whom I serve before releasing their names as references, or any other identifying information.

I will use THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA member contact information (email addresses, telephone numbers, etc.) only in the manner and to the extent authorized by THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA.

Clergy are teachers of moral standards and models of moral behavior. They, therefore, do not engage in exploitative practices that destroy moral integrity.

As a trainer or supervisor of current and potential Interfaith Christian ministers, I will conduct myself in accordance with THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA Code of Ethics in all training and supervisory situations.

I will be responsible for setting clear, appropriate and culturally sensitive boundaries that govern any physical contact that I may have with those whom I serve.

I will not become sexually involved with any of those whom I serve. This does not apply within a normal Pastor/congregational setting, except as it pertains to moral interecine.

I will construct clear agreements with those whom I serve and will honor all agreements made in the context of professional Interfaith Christian ministry relationships.

I will ensure that, prior to or at the initial pastoral session, those whom I serve understand the nature of an Interfaith Christian ministry, the bounds of confidentiality, financial arrangements and other terms of the pastoral counseling agreement.

I will accurately identify my qualifications, expertise and experience as an Interfaith Christian minister.

I will not intentionally mislead or make false claims about what those whom I serve will receive from me as an Interfaith Christian minister.

I will not give those whom I serve information or advice I know or believe to be misleading.

I will not knowingly exploit any aspect of the professional or ministerial relationship for my personal, professional or monetary advantage or benefit.

Clergy recognizes that criminal misconduct may result in removal from membership of The Church Of Interfaith Christians, USA.

Clergy will maintain vigilance in pastoral work and will not exploit those they serve.

I will seek to avoid conflicts between my interests and the interests of those whom I serve.

Whenever any actual conflict of interest or the potential for a conflict of interest arises, I will openly disclose it and fully discuss with those I serve how to deal with it in whatever way best serves those I serve.

I will disclose to those who I serve all anticipated compensation from third parties that I may receive for referrals.

I will only barter for services, goods or other non-monetary remuneration when it will not impair the relationship enjoyed as an Interfaith Christian Minister.

Clergy will acknowledge their need to grow in spirit and professionalism. They will maintain a continuing life of prayer and study.

I will, at all times, strive to recognize personal issues that may impair, conflict or interfere with my Interfaith Christian ministry, performance or my professional relationships. Whenever the facts and circumstances necessitate, I will promptly seek professional assistance and determine the action to be taken, including whether it is appropriate to suspend or terminate my Interfaith Christian ministry relationship/s.

Clergy will be cognizant of their own limitations and will not hesitate to refer people to appropriate professionals, if the need so arises.

If I believe those I serve would be better served by another, or by another resource, I will encourage those whom I serve to make a change.

I will suggest that those whom I serve seek the services of other professionals when deemed appropriate or necessary.

I will take all reasonable steps to notify the appropriate authorities in the event those whom I serve disclose an intention to endanger self or others.

Clergy will maintain careful, complete records of their ministerial work, especially in the areas of pastoral counseling and wedding ministry.

I will accurately create, maintain, store and dispose of any records of work done in relation to the practice of my Interfaith Christian ministry in a way that promotes confidentiality and complies with any applicable laws.

Clergy will not engage in any activity or utterance that seeks to undermine the ministries of their colleagues, except in such cases when those ministries do not reflect the Motto and/or Statement of Faith of The Church Of Interfaith Christians, USA.

I will conduct myself in a manner that reflects positively upon my chosen ministry, this Church and colleagues. I will refrain from engaging in conduct or making statements that may negatively impact the public's understanding or acceptance of THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA or my status as a professional minister.

I will not knowingly make any public statements that are untrue or misleading, or make false claims in any written documents relating to this Church, my ministry or the ministry of others.

I will respect the different approaches of others within this Church. I will honor the efforts and contributions of others and not misrepresent them as my own.

I will be aware of any issues that may potentially lead to the misuse of my influence by recognizing the nature of an Interfaith Christian ministry and the way in which it may affect the lives of others.

Clergy will respect and honor the worth of every person and will not discriminate in offering the Church Sacrament and Services to any person on the basis of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, color, handicap or marital status.

As an Interfaith Christian Minister, I acknowledge and agree to honor my ethical obligations to my chosen ministry, those whom I serve, colleagues and to the public at large. I pledge to comply with THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA Code of Ethics, to treat people with dignity as independent and equal human beings, and to model these standards with those with whom I work. If I breach this Pledge of Ethics or any part of THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA Code of Ethics, I agree that THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA in its sole discretion may hold me accountable for so doing. I further agree that my accountability with THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA for any breach may include loss of my membership and or Church credentials.

I understand that THE CHURCH OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIANS, USA does not discriminate in its ministry, ordination or the granting of credentials to those of various races, creeds, religions (so long as Jesus Christ is included in their worship), marital status, veterans status, financial background or sexual orientation. Therefore, I do so solemnly agree that I shall treat all others, including those listed heretofore, with the same respect that I expect to be treated.