

## Affirmation of Ministerial Ethics

Recognizing our dependence on the Holy Spirit, the following standards are set forth as a code of ethics in an effort to create professional understanding and to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline, and promote the integrity of our chosen profession -- the ministry of Jesus Christ. This code of ethics is applicable to all members of a ministerial staff.

Scriptures:     I Timothy 4:7b - 16             II Corinthians 2:17, 4:1 - 2  
                     James 1:26 - 27                 I Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5  
                     I Peter 5:1 - 3                         Matthew 28:18 - 20

I covenant in the sight of God with my colleagues in the ministry to strive to keep the code of ministerial ethics of Converge.

### I. My Person – I will:

1. Endeavor to pray daily, to read, study and meditate upon God's Word; and to maintain extended times of contemplation.
2. Plan quality time with my family, realizing my special relationship and responsibility to them and their position as important members of my congregation.
3. Seek to keep my body physically fit through periodic physical exams, proper eating habits, adequate rest, and planned exercise, renewing myself through a weekly holiday and an annual vacation.
4. Try to keep myself emotionally fit through available resources such as supportive relationships and evaluative testing.
5. Strive to grow through comprehensive reading and through participation in professional education opportunities.
6. Avoid lust, pornography, and sexual sin.
7. Not abuse my body and will avoid addictions of all kinds.
8. Not emotionally, verbally, physically or sexually abuse my wife, my children or any other person.
9. Seek professional help promptly when I need personal support or intervention.
10. Seek to develop accountable relationships with one or more of my peers of the same gender.

### II. My Profession – I will:

1. Seek to conduct myself consistently with my calling and commitment as a servant of God.
2. Give priority to my congregation and will accept added responsibilities only if they do not interfere with the effectiveness of my ministry in the congregation.
3. Consider a confidential statement made to me as a sacred trust.
4. Responsibly exercise the freedom of the pulpit, speaking the truth of God's Word with conviction in love; and will acknowledge any extensive use of material prepared by someone else.

**III. My Finances – I will:**

1. Advocate adequate compensation for my profession and will assist the congregation to understand that a minister should not expect or require fees for pastoral services to them.
2. Be honest in my stewardship of money, paying bills promptly, asking no personal favors or discounts on the basis of my professional status.
3. Give tithes and offerings as a good steward and example to the church.

**IV. My Congregation – I will:**

1. Seek to regard all persons in the congregation with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to their needs and refrain from behavior that will be divisive.
2. Treat all those in the church with dignity and respect while retaining the right to establish close friendships within the congregation.
3. Exercise confidence in the lay leadership, assisting in their training and in their creativity.
4. Seek to lead the church in a positive direction, remaining open to constructive criticism and suggestions intended to strengthen our common ministry.
5. Candidate at only one church at a time, and respond promptly and definitely to a call, and I shall seek to deal fairly with the church I am presently serving.

**V. My Colleagues – I will:**

1. See to maintain supportive, caring and accountable relationships with my colleagues in the ministry.
2. See and honor all commitments made with fellow pastors and respect the pastoral relationships that my neighboring pastors have with their parishioners.
3. Upon departure, sever my pastoral relations with the congregation, recognizing that all pastoral functions should henceforth rightfully be conducted by my successor.
4. Not serve any congregations within a reasonable commuting distance without the approval of the official leadership of the church I have left.
5. Not agree to perform any pastoral services in a church I have previously served until I have first obtained permission from the current pastor.
6. Upon retirement or withdrawal from the ministry, refrain from engaging in pastoral functions within our church fellowship, unless requested by the pastor.

**VI. My Association – I will:**

1. Cooperate with the personnel of Converge and of Converge MidAmerica, and offer responsible criticism in order that our common service in the kingdom of God might be more effective.
2. In the event that I seriously violate the vows that I have made to God and to my church, I will submit to the restoration/reconciliation process established by my association and my church.
3. Use my influence to affirm the fellowship of this church with Converge and my local Converge district.