

An Ethical Covenant for Regional Ministers

This document for Regional Ministers is an addendum to the document "My Ministerial Code of Ethics," which is a covenant of sacred commitments by all persons serving in the ministry of the Church. Regional Ministers are expected to abide by these additional covenants in their service as Regional Ministers.

In working to honor relationships with myself, my colleagues, my constituents, and persons throughout the church, I make this ethical covenant to:

† Attend to my physical, mental, social, financial, and spiritual well-being, and seek the pastoral counsel of colleagues if I sense that my health is making it difficult to fulfill my calling.

† Seek the counsel of the General Minister and President and President of the College of Regional Ministers should divisive tensions threaten my relationship with the Region I serve.

† Seek arbitration or mediation if needed, rather than litigation, if the Region I serve acts to terminate my employment with terms that are not mutually agreeable.

† Make it a priority to be in attendance and fully engaged at meetings of the College of Regional Ministers, General Board, and other meetings of the Church where Regional Ministers are expected to be present.

† Invest myself in the well-being of my colleagues in Regional Ministry by praying for them and offering support and counsel where appropriate and

also seeking their support and counsel when needed.

† Honor all of the requirements of the document, *"Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)"* giving special attention to the following commitments related to Search and Call:

* Working with search committees to ensure that search processes are carried out in a manner that is fair to all potential candidates.

* Providing information to candidates with standing, upon their request, concerning congregations in the search process.

* Providing search and call forms to search committees from all candidates with standing who request that I do so if those search committees are receiving names for consideration.

† Be diligent in facilitating the search and call process for search committees and candidates and being timely in my responses to those who depend on me for information and/or assistance.

† Ensure that timely reports are made concerning ministerial changes so that accurate listings of ministers with standing may be maintained.

† Furnish reports that are expected of me by the larger church in a timely

manner (General Board reports, Year Book reports, etc.)

† Exercise my responsibility as part of the church's leadership by offering constructive ideas and criticism on matters of importance in the life of the church, while honoring my relationships with colleagues in Regional ministry, general ministries, institutions of higher education, and other partner ministries of the Church by refraining from conversation which is hurtful or disparaging about their character or motives. If I have personal concerns about these colleagues or the ministries to which they give oversight, I will speak with them directly and privately.

† Be an advocate for the ministry of the whole church and promote giving by congregations to the whole mission of the church through Disciples Mission Fund and the Special Day Offerings.

† Exercise sound and ethical financial administration by leading the Region I serve to operate within budgeted guidelines and accepted standard accounting practices and to protect assets that are donor-restricted or otherwise limited for particular ministries.

† Initiate collaboration with the Regional Minister for the Region which holds standing for any minister whose services I seek for the Region I serve.

† Depart from my ministry as a Regional Minister without attempting to influence the processes of naming my successor, nor interfering with processes that are developed following my departure.

† After departing from my role as Regional Minister, refrain from offering counsel to congregations and clergy as I did when I was a Regional Minister, and, if asked for such counsel, direct congregations and clergy to their current Regional Minister for counsel.

† After departing from my role as Regional Minister, honor current members of the College of Regional Ministers by working collaboratively with them concerning leadership service that may be asked of me in particular Regions.

† Make regular reference to this Ethical Covenant for Regional Ministers and be willing to be held accountable to it by my colleagues, even as I hold them accountable to it.

(Signature of Regional Minister)

(Date)