

PASTORAL STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY

Accepting a professional role is a promise making act. Expectations of conscientiousness, commitment and competence are connected to our ministry. The current social environment is testing our commitment to certain standards of conduct which have been previously assumed. Thus, the Presbytery is compelled to articulate its understanding of what we hold in common as ethical standards of professional behavior and adopted in "Standards of Ethical Conduct" approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) Presbyterian Church U.S.A.), which is the current guideline for all governing bodies, congregations, and personnel.

As pastors we are committed to Jesus Christ, acknowledging him as both our Savior and our Lord. Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Christ is the head of the body. We are members one of another. We are to act in a manner upholding the integrity, morality and dignity of the whole body of Christ.

Pastors are also bound by ordination vows to be obedient to Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and guided by the Book of Confessions. Whenever a minister is installed, or a pastor is commissioned to service, these commitments are reaffirmed. These promises create a framework for ministry which is accountable to the Presbytery of Blackhawk for its character and conduct.

As an expression of our faithfulness to Jesus Christ and our promises as ordained clergy or commissioned pastors within the Presbytery, by signing this statement we acknowledge and affirm our intention to accept the following ethical standards:

In Pastoral Care

- To practice integrity in pastoral relationships;
- To maintain confidentiality when proper;
- To honor the trust between pastor and others in professional relationships;
- To know one's limits as a pastoral counselor;
- To avoid the misuse of power.

In Sexual Conduct

- To behave in ways that honor the trust and integrity of marriage relationships;
- To avoid Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct;
- To avoid exploitation in professional relationships;
- To maintain relationships within the confines of acceptable behavior as defined by the policy statements of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- To abide by the Presbytery's Sexual Conduct policy.

In Legal and Financial Matters

- To not engage in criminal activity, including but not limited to fraud, embezzlement, sexual misdemeanors or felonies, spousal or child abuse;
- To exercise financial responsibility regarding the use of church funds and observe established policies or guidelines in using designated funds, borrowing money from the church, and use of expense accounts;
- To not take financial advantage of others;
- To exercise integrity in giving and receiving gifts.

The Presbytery of Blackhawk will allow all pastors who believe being faithful to Jesus Christ requires them to be disobedient to the law a chance to state their case if they so desire.

Approved October 19, 2021

In Professional Relations

- To interact with colleagues and churches in ways that mutually support ministries, including such areas as, respecting the ministries of other pastors and churches, honoring the Presbytery's policy on leaving a pastorate, observing predecessor/successor courtesies.

"Sexual Misconduct Policy and Its Procedures" adopted by the 205th G.A. (1993)

As a someone called to pastor a congregation of the Presbytery of Blackhawk, I have read this statement, acknowledge its contents, and agree to abide by these standards as long as I am called to pastor a Blackhawk congregation.

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

DATE: _____