

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA



PASTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT

I, as a pastor of The Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa, do hereby solemnly pledge to conduct myself in a manner that brings glory to God and which is befitting a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

By accepting the pastoral calling as my earthly profession, I commit myself to this code of professional conduct and I promise to order my life in accordance with these principles.

1. IN MY RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

- 1.1 To love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my mind (Matthew 22:37).
- 1.2 Do my best to serve to God as an approved worker who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).
- 1.3 To pursue a lifestyle of holiness in all I do since God who called me is holy (1 Peter 1:15).

2. IN RELATION TO MY PERSONAL LIFE

- 2.1 To lead a life which is characterized by daily prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- 2.2 To continuous study and reading of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- 2.3 To follow a lifestyle of personal discipline, which is characterized by trustworthiness, temperance (self-control) in all things, respect, hospitality, sobriety, obedience, integrity, love, joy, peace, patience and faithfulness (1 Timothy 3:1-3; Titus 1:7-9; Galatians 5:22-23).
- 2.4 Responsible management of personal financial matter and avoid irresponsible financial management that may lead to insolvency or prosecution which is punishable.

3. IN RELATION TO FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS

3.1 To my marriage partner and family members:

- 3.1.1 To love, care, protect and set aside time for my marriage partner (Ephesians 5:25).
- 3.1.2 Not to seek separation (divorce) on non-Biblical grounds (Malachi 2:16).
- 3.1.3 To express sexuality within the boundaries and precepts of marriage and not to indulge myself sexual malpractice such as extra-marital sexual relations, homosexual relations, incest, paedophilia, pornography and transvestitism (Hebrew 13:4).
- 3.1.4 To take care, love, set aside time for and bring up my children in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6).

3.2 To my colleagues in the ministry:

- 3.2.1 To promote brotherly and sisterly love.
- 3.2.2 To refrain from damaging in any way the reputation or integrity of any colleague through slander, arousing suspicion, craving for power and disloyalty.
- 3.2.3 To diligently apply Matthew 18:15-17 to resolve any disagreements or disputes that may arise between myself and any of my colleagues.
- 3.2.4 To courteously inform my colleague should I receive an invitation to minister at a local church from another denomination which is in my colleague's geographic area.
- 3.2.5 To refrain from soliciting or encouraging members from another assembly to resign and join my assembly. Should members from another assembly apply for membership to my assembly I will ensure that all outstanding issues, if any, between the applicant and the applicant's assembly are dealt with in an honourable fashion.

3.3 To members of my denomination:

- 3.3.1 To recognize the different areas of ministry (1 Corinthians 12:18).
- 3.3.2 To recognize the priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2:5,9).
- 3.3.3 To avail myself to equipping, edification, motivation and caring (Ephesians 4:11-16).

3.4 To Christian believers of other denominations

- 3.4.1 To always acknowledge and maintain the view that the body of Christ is bigger than my denomination.
- 3.4.2 To refrain from denigrating other Christian denominations.

3.5 To those outside the Christian Family

- 3.5.1 My conduct and responsibility shall be governed by the commission of the Lord in Matthew 28:19.
- 3.5.2 The motivation of my conduct shall be love (John 3:16).
- 3.5.3 The strategy of my conduct shall be a good testimony (1 Timothy 3:7).

4. IN RELATION TO OTHER THINGS:

4.1 To the church

- 4.1.1 To submit to the church's confession of faith and decisions taken by the church on doctrinal, ethical and liturgical matters.
- 4.1.2 To attend all church meetings to which I am a member and to tender apologies for all absenteeism.
- 4.1.3 To show respect support and loyalty to the church's leadership at local, regional and national levels.

- 4.1.4 To diligently perform the duties which the church's constitution and regulations require of me.
- 4.1.5 To utilize the church's Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures to air any disagreements which I may have with any structures, church's officials or other persons working for the church.
- 4.1.6 To maintain in strict confidence any confidential information which people and structures of the church commit to me as a minister of the gospel.
- 4.1.7 That I will not perform any work for which I may receive compensation, while in the employ of the church, unless this is approved of by the appropriate body.
- 4.1.8 To ensure that adequate administrative and financial control measures are in place so that proper accountability can be given.
- 4.1.9 To ensure that records relating to any annual leave, sick leave, special leave or any other absences from the body of my employ are kept up to date and duly authorized.
- 4.1.10 To perform the ministry to which I have been called within the church with vigor, commitment, diligence, excellence, devotion and justice without showing favour to some people while neglecting others.
- 4.1.11 Not to promote myself or my ministry in the media or to the public in a way that brings the church into disrepute.

4.2 Enslaving and sinful strongholds:

To refrain from addictive strongholds such as drugs, strong liquor, smoking, pornography, gambling, homosexual behaviour, covetousness and craving for power (1 John 2:16).

4.3 Restraint of Trade

That as part of my contractual agreement with a local assembly of the AFM of SA I accept the following 'Restraint of Trade' clause:

In the event of withdrawal from an assembly for whatever reason, loss of status as a result of disciplinary action or resignation, I pledge not to establish nor engage in the establishment of an independent church or an assembly of the AFM of SA (unless established in terms of the constitutional prescripts of the AFM of SA) within a minimum radius of five (5) kilometres from the last assembly of employment, after such withdrawal, loss of status as a result of disciplinary action or resignation; such agreement being subject to a time limit of five (5) years.

(The abovementioned shall *mutatis mutandis* apply with regard to employment in any department/theological training institution/instance of the church.)

Signed at:..... on this.....day of

PASTOR

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM REPRESENTATIVE

FIRST WITNESS

SECOND WITNESS