

LANCASTER MENNONITE CONFERENCE (LMC)
COVENANT/CODE OF SEXUAL ETHICS FOR MINISTERS

1. Ministers are representatives of God and the church and as such are to be agents of healing and redemption. They are aware that a minister's sexual exploitation or abuse is an abuse of trust, and abuse of power and an abuse of the authority of a pastoral position. They accept their responsibility to define and maintain appropriate boundaries within their ministerial relationships.
2. Ministers are aware that their personal relationships and lives must also reflect healthy morals and sexuality. Spouse or child abuse, use of pornography, or other forms of immorality may also lead to discipline.
3. Ministers are aware that discipline for sexual misconduct and immorality involves both their ministerial credentials and their vocational status.
4. Ministers are aware of and willing to abide by church policies and disciplinary procedures to address sexual misconduct.
5. Ministers accept responsibility to call each other to account and to exercise biblical responsibility to confront colleagues concerning perceptions of inappropriate sexual relationships.
6. Ministers are aware of their calling as servants of God under the lordship of Jesus Christ, and from that they accept their responsibility for and accountability to people entrusted to their care.
7. Ministers accept the obligation to disclose information regarding previous sexual misconduct for which they have been called to account prior to formal candidacy for a new ministry position.
8. Ministers are aware that there are denominational and conference policies and procedures for cases of sexual misconduct and unethical behavior.
9. Ministers accept the responsibility to be "mandated reporters" of any suspected child abuse as prescribed by Pennsylvania law.

As a minister of Jesus Christ and as a representative of the church within its office of ministry, I accept and subscribe to these affirmations.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____

Witness: _____

For a broader treatment of Ethics in Ministry, refer to:

- *A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership*, Section V, page 106-127.
- *Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure*, Mennonite Church USA and Lancaster Mennonite Conference, 2000