

Ryan Leigh McClelland  
**Ministerial Code of Ethics**

## **PREAMBLE**

Affirming my belief in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, and declaring Him as the Lord and Savior of the world, I recommit myself to my ministerial vows. With unwavering dedication and disciplined service, I pledge to lead with integrity. Trusting in the grace of God, I wholeheartedly commit to the following:

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO SELF**

- Maintain physical, emotional, and spiritual health through best practices in areas of well-being.
- Grow intellectually through personal study, comprehensive reading, and attending experiences that facilitate personal growth like conferences and retreats.
- Manage time well, balancing personal obligations, church duties, and family responsibilities. Be honest and responsible in financial matters.
- Be truthful in speech, avoiding plagiarism, exaggeration, and gossip. Demonstrate Christlike attitude to all.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO FAMILY**

- Be fair to every family member, giving each the time, love, and consideration they need.
- Recognize the unique role of the spouse as a marital partner and parent, and regard children as gifts from God.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CONGREGATION**

- Emulate Christ's example in faith, love, wisdom, courage, and integrity. Manage time effectively in pastoral duties, preaching, teaching, and administration.
- Administer pastoral and administrative duties impartially. Preach with adequate time for prayer and preparation, ensuring biblical, theological, and clear communication.
- Maintain strict confidentiality in counseling. Conduct evangelism without manipulation or demeaning other faiths.
- Avoid being alone with a person of another sex during visitation.
- Do not charge personal fees to church members for weddings or funerals.
- Depart a congregation with proper timing, verbal affirmation, and appropriate closure of ministry.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO COLLEAGUES**

- Relate to all ministers as partners, respecting and cooperating with them. Provide support, counsel, and assistance to colleagues.
- Refrain from treating colleagues as competition. Avoid disparaging remarks and interference in the ministry of other ministers.
- Show respect to retired ministers.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMMUNITY**

- Prioritize pastoral duties and engage in reasonable community service without neglecting ministry.
- Practice Christian citizenship without engaging in unethical politics. Obey government laws unless conflicting with the law of God.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE DENOMINATION**

- Love, support, and cooperate with the denomination, recognizing its contribution to life, ministry, and church.
- Work to improve the denomination and contribute to the expansion of God's kingdom.

## **PURSUE INTEGRITY**

- Exalt Christ, be honest, peace-loving, patient, diligent, and care for personal well-being.
- Interpret the Bible accurately, speak the truth in love, and give due credit.

## **BE TRUSTWORTHY**

- Model trustworthiness, use power and influence prudently, and keep promises. Guard confidences and be honest with resources.

## **SEEK PURITY**

- Avoid sinful behavior, maintain sexual purity, and earnestly seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for spiritual growth.
- Study the Bible regularly, embrace biblical doctrine, and seek personal counseling when needed.

## **EMBRACE ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Promote accepted accounting practices, ensure transparent use of church funds, and model accountability in ministry.
- Ensure compliance with denominational standards and expectations.

## **FACILITATE FAIRNESS**

- Follow approved church practices in staff selection. Advocate for equitable pay, provide regular team building, and ensure appropriate access to staff.
- Build God's Kingdom in cooperation with local ministries. Provide Christian services to the public. Avoid recruiting parishioners without permission and refrain from interfering in previous congregations.