

MINISTERIAL CODE OF ETHICS

Unity/Harmony

1. The National Board of Directors is the governing body of the Organization, and all of its ministers shall respect and work in harmony with its decisions.
2. Ministers shall be guardians attending wholly to their individual churches, making it a point of honour to give service to their community.
3. Ministers shall work in cooperation with their regional leadership to build and foster the spirit of unity, harmony and a better understanding in their Region.
4. All ministers shall work in accordance with the Organization, its principles and policies, and shall discourage dissension and destructive criticism therein.
5. Ministers shall avoid partiality or discrimination in the exercise of their duties.
6. Following the spirit and principles of New Testament teaching, all ministers shall be governed by the Laws of Christ's love in their dealings one with another.
7. Ministers shall not visit other churches for personal purposes or to create influence. When visiting other churches, ministers shall exercise courtesy, wisdom and discretion.
8. Officers shall settle any difficulties or differences between fellow ministers or between other ministers and themselves through the channels provided by the Organization.
9. Ministers should be careful in endorsing agencies, individuals or products, lest any such endorsements be used to influence others unduly or bring reproach to the Organization.
10. Ministers shall perform wedding ceremonies in accordance with the prevailing Marriage Policy of the Organization.

Resigning

11. When planning to resign from a charge, ministers shall first notify the proper officers. They shall adhere to all bylaw policy and lend all of their support to the work of the incoming minister.
12. Upon resigning one church to serve and lead another, ministers shall sever connections with the original church as far as ministerial duties are concerned, and

shall under no circumstance seek to retain influence over such churches from which they have been released.

13. Ministers shall refrain from discrediting the ministry of their predecessors and shall not correspond with former church members for contributions, or to exert influence in matters concerning church policy.
14. A minister should not make overtures to or consider overtures from a church whose minister has not resigned.

Finances

15. Ministers shall not use their office for personal gain.
16. Ministers shall be careful not to incur any personal indebtedness that will in any way obligate or embarrass the work of the local church or the Organization.
17. Ministers shall not be permitted to lend or borrow money to or from any church without written permission from their Regional Superintendent or National Director. If such permission is to be granted, a written agreement should first be executed.
18. Visiting ministers shall neither borrow money nor seek guarantees for debts from the members or officers of the church nor solicit any contributions on the side.

Establishing a New Work

19. Where there is an existing Open Bible ministry in an area, a minister who is desirous of establishing a ministry in that area should consult first with the existing leadership.
20. Where there is no existing Open Bible ministry in an area, a minister who is desirous of establishing a new work in that area should consult first with the relevant Superintendent and the department of Local Evangelism and Foreign Missions.

Evangelism

21. Persons who are not acceptable to the Organization shall not be invited to minister. Foreign ministers must be approved by the National Board of Directors in accordance with prevailing procedures.
22. Evangelists and visiting ministers shall support and work in harmony with the minister for whom ministry is done.

23. Ministers and evangelists shall not evangelize or hold services for any other denomination in any community where there is an existing or operating Open Bible Standard work, without first notifying the minister or officer in charge.
24. When evangelizing in fields where there is no minister or officer in charge, evangelists shall remain a reasonable time to care for the new work until a minister can be provided by the Organization.
25. At the completion of a campaign, evangelists shall leave the field wholly in charge of the minister and shall not correspond with converts or with members for contributions or to exert influence.

Exceptions

26. Statements of confidentiality made to a minister by fellow-ministers or church members are sacred and not to be divulged except in cases involving a threat of harm to self or to another individual in which event the minister has an obligation to report such threat to the appropriate authorities.
27. Except in emergencies, ministerial service shall not be rendered to members of another church without the knowledge of their pastor.