

(vi) Ministerial Code of Ethics for pastors of the Baptist Association of Belize
Approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Baptist Association of Belize
Lake Independence Baptist Church
October 3, 2008

Ministerial Code of Ethics

Preamble

As a minister of Jesus Christ, called by God to proclaim the Gospel and credentialed by the Baptist Association of Belize, I commit myself to this code of ethics. I make this commitment sincerely and wholeheartedly, so my ministry will be acceptable to God, beneficial to my family and church, and a witness to the world.

Personal and Family

- I will continue to develop my spiritual life through consistent prayer, Bible reading and personal application of Scripture.
- I will seek to maintain balance between family and ministry and will treat my family with love, attention and respect.
- I will pursue physical and emotional health through regular exercise, healthy eating habits and adequate rest.
- I will be life long learner through the pursuit of educational opportunities and resources.
- I will manage my personal finances with integrity by promptly paying bills, avoiding excessive debt and preparing for retirement.
- I will abstain from gambling, pornography, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, abuse of legal medication and affiliation with secret, fraternal orders.

Church Relationships and Responsibilities

- When preaching, I will prepare and deliver biblically-based messages and communicate with honesty, giving credit when using another's material. (No plagiarizing)
- In counseling, I will keep strict confidentiality except to prevent physical harm or as required by law.
- I will use discretion and wisdom with the opposite sex to prevent the appearance of evil, temptation or sin.
- I will ensure that proper checks and balances are in place so finances are managed with integrity and in accordance with government laws.
- I will not loan money to the church or receive a loan from the church or its members without the written consent of the church board or church council and the Regional Chairman.
- I will minister without partiality and not allow a personal relationship to unduly influence the decisions and direction of the church.
- I will marry only individuals who fulfill Biblical guidelines.

- If for any reason I am unable to conduct service at the Church's establishment I will seek out help from the Regional Chairman after having informed my congregation.
- If for any reason I have lost faith in the Baptist ministry, I will respectfully make my case known in writing to the church, copied to the Association and humbly resign.
- I will use caution and discretion in using my influence to endorse products or agencies.
- In my capacity as pastor, I will not endorse political parties or candidates running for public office.
- Where the church that I pastor ceases to exist for what ever reason, I will immediately bring this to the attention of the chairman of the Region in writing.

Responsibilities to colleagues and Baptist Association of Belize Leadership

- I will treat all ministerial colleagues, including predecessors with respect in words and actions.
- I will work in cooperation with Baptist Association of Belize leaders and ministers and will resolve conflicts in order to maintain a spirit of unity.
- I will, upon becoming aware, of the serious misconduct of a Baptist Association of Belize minister, contact the Regional Chairman.
- I will contact the senior Pastor of a church prior to contacting one of his/her staff or members concerning ministry opportunities.
- I will not start or locate a new church or relocate an existing church without first informing the regional Chairman.
- I will not accept an independent pastorate in a city where a Baptist Association of Belize church exists without first informing the Regional Chairman.
- I will not approach or consider an offer from a church whose pastor has not officially resigned.
- I will upon leaving a pastorate, provide ministry to persons in the church only with the consent of the Senior Pastor, and will not exert influence or undermine the leadership of the church.
- I will treat ministry guests with courtesy, providing adequately for their needs, and will not invite persons to minister in the church who are under discipline, have questionable character, or have fundamental doctrinal differences.
- I will not attempt to unduly influence people to leave other churches.

Ethical responsibilities of the Baptist Association of Belize

- The Baptist Association of Belize, through its Ordaining Council, alone has the right to allow or disallow the ordination of a Pastor.
- The Baptist Association of Belize will facilitate ministerial education for prospective pastors.
- The Baptist Association of Belize will give guidelines to churches as to the certification and qualification of a prospective pastor.
- The decision to ordain a pastor based on his marital status will be at the discretion of the Baptist Association of Belize.

- Only on the advice of a church will the Baptist Association of Belize revoke a Pastor's ordination.
- All pastors who aim to minister with Baptist association of Belize churches and were not ordained by the Baptist Association of Belize will need to come under re-examination and subsequently re-ordination.

Pastor's Signature

Date

Witness (Church representative)

Date

Witness (Regional Chairman)

Date

Witness (President BAOB)

Date