

THE ORDAINED MINISTER'S CODE

The Ordained Ministry

We believe that God calls our Church as part of the Church Universal to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ; that witnessing to the gospel in church and society belongs to everyone; that God empowers people and ministries by the Holy Spirit; and that the Church is called to nurture faith and equip all persons for service in God's name according to individual gifts and training.

I have been called by God and this congregation to be a minister in the name of Jesus Christ, and I have been ordained by the United Church of Christ to preach and teach the gospel as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. This call includes these essential elements:

- I will seek to witness to God's unconditional love in the inclusive ministry of Jesus Christ, grounded in compassion and justice and enlivened and empowered by the Holy Spirit. I will intentionally provide compassionate and collaborative leadership and pastoral care for the congregation.
- I will preach and teach the gospel. I will speak the truth in the direction of love and justice.
- I will maintain an open communion table and a welcoming baptismal font. I will administer the sacraments and rites of the church as authorized by the bylaws.
- I will compassionately welcome all persons and minister to and with them according to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Partnership in Ministry

Together with the other members and friends of the church, I will nurture and offer my gifts for ministry to the Church. I will seek to call forth and nurture the gifts of others in the Church and join their gifts with mine for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ and the health of the Church.

I will seek to understand, support and interpret the diverse ministries of the Church and its members as carried out throughout the world.

I will work collaboratively and collegially with those whom I serve in the particular ministry to which I have been called.

I will adhere as closely and reasonably as possible to the terms of my call and my employment contract and will expect the church to do likewise.

I will stand in a supportive relationship with my colleagues in ordained, commissioned, and licensed ministry, offering and receiving counsel and support in times of need.

I will be a responsible participant in the life and work of the Southeastern Association, the Rocky Mountain Conference, and the United Church of Christ.

I will be a responsible representative of the wider Church and participate in those activities which strengthen its unity, witness and mission.

I will seek the confidential counsel of the Pastor Parish Team of this church first and if necessary thereafter the Conference Minister should it be helpful to my ministry to support the overall ministry of this church.

In the event of a conflict that impairs our life together as a church family or my ministry here, I will seek the confidential counsel of the Pastor Parish Team of this church first and if necessary thereafter the Conference Minister.

The Ethics of Ministry

I will strive to regard all persons with equal respect and concern and undertake to minister impartially.

I will honor all confidences shared with me except as required by Colorado law .

I will not use my position, power, or authority to exploit any person.

I will respect all ethical boundaries regarding personal and institutional finances.

I will not perform outside pastoral services within a parish or for a member of a parish without the consent of the pastor of that parish.

I will remain in good standing with the Southeastern Association and maintain a current Boundary Training certification.

I will protect and advocate for the children, elders, and other vulnerable persons within my ministry.

I will deal ethically with the record of my predecessor and successors.

I will not use my pastoral office to promote or defeat any political cause or agenda or candidate.

Evaluation and Spiritual Growth

I will encourage and participate in the regular evaluation of my ministry.

I will seek to grow in faith, knowledge and the practice of ministry through intentional continuing education, study and devotional life.

I will cooperate with the Southeastern Association in the periodic review of my ordained ministerial standing.

Commitments to Self and Family

I will live a life that honors my commitments to my family.

I will honor my need for time for physical and spiritual renewal, recreation and vacation.

I will honor my family's need for privacy and time together.

I will be a responsible steward of my personal finances. I will not incur debt in the name of the church without express prior authority of the church council.

I will attend to my emotional and physical well-being to the best of my ability and be a law abiding citizen.

Relying on the grace of God, I will lead a life worthy of the calling to which I have been called.