

CODE OF ETHICS

Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers

INTRODUCTION

Inherent in our calling to Christian ministry is a calling to be and to act in an ethical manner. This is an underlying assumption in the request to write a code of ethics. As we faced this task, we faced a basic issue of how to codify an ethic that is based on "Love God and do nothing to dishonor God's name." Somewhere between the extremes of antinomianism and legalism there seems to be a place for some basic guidelines, but finding that place is not an easy task. What follows is one such attempt. We offer you guidelines, an attempt to give direction without claiming to be the last word. Our hope is that they are valid to the point that to act out of concert with them will only be done in extreme circumstances and with great caution and deliberation.

Because any code of ethics must address the relational aspects of the professional role in question, we have chosen to structure this code around six of the basic relationships inherent in the role of the campus minister: the relationships with students, the university, other campus ministers and campus ministry, the family, churches, and the denomination.

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Chairperson

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Students

We all work in an arena in which students are a principle focus of our ministry; therefore:

1. The Campus Minister shall not use his or her position as a Campus Minister to exploit any student or any other person, either emotionally, intellectually, sexually, or financially.
2. The Campus Minister will attempt to maximize the gifts, intellect, and faith of all students.
3. The Campus Minister shall keep in confidence any and all confidential information he or she gains from an individual within the context of ministry. Exceptions to this will occur only after careful deliberation and when there is a clear and imminent danger to the individual or to society, and then only to appropriate professional workers, public authorities, or other persons clearly concerned with the case.

The University

We all work in the context of a college, university or other institution of higher education; therefore:

1. The Campus Minister shall be a loyal supporter of that institution and shall abide by all rules and regulations of that institution.
2. The Campus Minister shall do nothing to hinder the educational process of those attending the institution.

3. The Campus Minister shall set a standard of excellence for the institution by his or her high standards of integrity and personal morality.
4. The Campus Minister shall give dignity and respect to all employees of the institution of higher learning: faculty, administration, and staff.

Campus Ministers

We all work in a context in which we relate to other Campus Ministers; therefore:

1. No Campus Minister will undermine or defame the program or ministry of any legitimate Campus Minister.
2. The Campus Minister shall be a loyal supporter of other Southern Baptist Campus Ministers.
3. The Campus Minister shall engage in an ongoing study of areas pertinent to campus ministry.

Family

Because the Campus Minister's role as a family member, as the child of a family and in some cases as a spouse and/or parent, cannot be separated from his or her role as a Campus Minister; therefore:

1. The Campus Minister should maintain the highest possible standards of nurture, fidelity and commitment to the well-being of all members of his or her family: parents, spouse, children, and other siblings.
2. The Campus Minister should not let the demands of his or her job deny to family the priority it deserves.
3. The Campus Minister shall meet with honesty and integrity all personal and financial obligations.

Churches

We are all directly or indirectly supported by Baptist Churches; therefore:

1. The Campus Minister shall be a loyal member of a local Baptist Church.
2. The Campus Minister shall fairly represent all cooperating Baptist Churches to the students, faculty, and staff of his or her institution of higher learning.

Denomination

We are all in whole or part supported by a ministry of a religious denomination; therefore:

1. The Campus Minister shall be a loyal supporter of the local Baptist Associations, the State Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. He or she should also lead students to participate in and support these bodies.
2. The Campus Minister shall give priority consideration to the use of convention produced materials and programs.
3. The Campus Minister shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the local associations and the state convention in any and all fund raising. The Campus Minister shall maintain accurate records of any and all money he or she controls and make these records available to any who have legitimate need to see them.