

Ministerial Ethics

UPCI General Manual, Article VII. Section 7(2).

(f) Any credentialed UPCI minister who desires any type of relationship with members from a different congregation or who desires to request volunteer or religious services from such individuals will first contact their pastor for approval. This applies on the global, general, district, sectional, or local level.

(h) No credentialed UPCI minister shall accept any individual recognized as a member of a church pastored by another UPCI minister without communication of release or transfer. No credentialed UPCI minister shall unreasonably refuse a release or transfer to an individual recognized as a member desiring to withdraw from his or her assembly unless said individual has been proven guilty of misconduct by confession or by church board determination.

What happens if there is a breach of ethics?

1. Contact the offending minister immediately.
 2. If needed, the next step would be to contact your sectional Presbyter, then your District Superintendent.
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ETHICS (MINISTERIAL)

Adopted by the General Conference in 1964

'My Code of Ethics'

(Not laws to govern but principles to guide)

Striving to be a good minister of the Lord Jesus Christ,
I will constantly prepare myself in body, mind, and spirit.
I will safeguard the good name of the ministry; [I will] speak the truth in love, live honestly, and avoid embarrassing debts.

Updated from the 2021 mid-year UPCI Manual

I will hold as sacred all confidences shared with me.

I will exercise the authority of a spiritual leader rather than that of a dictator.

I will seek to minister rather than to be ministered unto, placing service above salary and personal recognition, and the unity and welfare of the church above my own personal welfare.

I will seek to lead my church to accept its full responsibility for community and world service.

I will seek to build my church without discrediting other churches, soliciting members therefrom, or casting reflection on other ministers.

I will not compete with another minister for a call to a pastorate in an unethical manner.

I will, with my resignation, sever my pastoral relations with any former parishioner and will not make pastoral contacts in the field of another pastor without his or her knowledge and consent.

I will not accept the pastorate of a United Pentecostal Church unless I am in accord with the Articles of Faith and Constitution of the general church body.

Having accepted a pastorate, I will not use my influence to alienate the church or any portion thereof from the fellowship or support of the UPCI. If my convictions change, I will be honorable enough to withdraw.