Code of Sexual Ethics for Ministers: VMC File Copy

Instructions:

Sign the code of ethics in the presence of two witnesses. **Send the original copy to the Virginia Mennonite Conference Office to be placed in your secure personnel file.** Keep a copy for yourself.

1. Ministers are representatives of God and the church, and as such are to be agents of healing and redemption. They are aware that a minister's sexual exploitation or abuse is an abuse of trust, an abuse of power and an abuse of the authority of a pastoral position. They accept their responsibility to define and maintain appropriate boundaries within their ministerial relationships.

2. Ministers are aware that their personal relationships and lives must also reflect healthy morals and sexuality. Spouse or child abuse, use of pornography, or other forms of immorality may also lead to discipline.

3. Ministers are aware that discipline for sexual misconduct and immorality involves both their ministerial credentials and their vocational status.

4. Ministers are aware of and willing to abide by church policies and disciplinary procedures to address sexual misconduct.

5. Ministers accept responsibility to call each other to account and to exercise biblical responsibility to confront colleagues concerning perceptions of inappropriate sexual relationships.

6. Ministers are aware of their calling as servants of God under the lordship of Jesus Christ, and from that they accept their responsibility for and accountability to people entrusted to their care.

7. Ministers accept the obligation to disclose information regarding previous sexual misconduct for which they have been called to account prior to formal candidacy for a new ministry position.

As a minister of Jesus Christ and as a representative of the church within its office of ministry, I accept and subscribe to these affirmations.

Printed Name of Minister: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Witness: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Witness: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____