Affirmation of Ministerial Ethics in the Baptist General Conference

The following standards are set forth in an effort to create professional understanding and to

preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of our chosen profession—

the ministry of Jesus Christ.

M y P e r s o n

I will endeavor to pray daily, to read, study and meditate upon God’s Word; and to

maintain extended times of contemplation.

I will plan times to be with my family, realizing my special relationship to them, and their

position as important members of my congregation.

I will seek to keep my body physically fit through proper eating habits and planned

exercise, renewing myself through weekly time off and through vacations.

I will try to keep myself emotionally fit, keeping in touch with my feelings and growing in

healthy control of them.

I will strive to grow through comprehensive reading and through participation in

professional educational opportunities.

I will be a servant of God seeking to maintain a life of purity, integrity and truthfulness.

I will avoid lust, pornography and sexual sin.

I will not abuse my own body and will avoid addictions of all kinds.

I will not emotionally, verbally, physically or sexually abuse my spouse, my children or

any other person.

I will seek professional help promptly when I need personal support or intervention.

I will seek to develop accountable relationships with one or more of my peers of the

same gender.

M y C a l l i n g

I will seek to conduct myself consistently with my calling and commitment as a servant

of God.

I will give priority to my congregation and will accept added responsibilities only if they

do not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my ministry in the congregation.

I will consider a confidential statement made to me as a sacred trust.

I will responsibly exercise the freedom of the pulpit, speaking the truth of God’s Word

with conviction in love; and will acknowledge any extensive use of material prepared by

someone else.

My Finances
I will advocate adequate compensation for my profession and will assist the
congregation in understanding that a minister should not expect or require fees for
pastoral services to them.
I will be honest in my stewardship of money, paying bills promptly, asking no personal
favors or discounts on the basis of my professional status.
I will give tithes and offerings as a good steward.
My Congregation
I will seek to regard all persons in the congregation with equal love and concern, and
undertake to minister impartially to their needs and refrain from behavior that will be
divisive.
I will treat all those in the church with dignity and respect, while retaining the right to
establish close friendships within the congregation.
I will exercise confidence in the lay leadership, assisting in their training and mobilizing
their creativity.
I will seek to lead the church in a positive direction. I will remain open to constructive
criticism and to suggestions intended to strengthen our common ministry.