

**DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON
CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT**

I, the undersigned, as a member of Church Personnel, as defined in the Policy Concerning Allegations of Sexual Misconduct or Abuse of a Minor, agree to follow this Code of Conduct. I acknowledge any action or inaction, inconsistent with the Code of Conduct, may result in my removal from any assignment, appointment, or position and/or the termination of my employment. Nothing in this Code shall be construed to interfere with a cleric's administration of the Sacraments or his Canonical obligations. Therefore, by virtue of my signature below, I WILL:

- Treat others with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity and consideration.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with minors except in administration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism or comparison when working with minors.
- Not accept expensive gifts from minors or their parents, without prior written approval from the parents and the pastor/administrator.
- Not give expensive gifts to minors without prior written approval from the parents and the pastor/administrator.
- Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and the local responsible agency (DSS or Police). I understand that if I am a mandated reporter as defined by SC law, failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities can result in prosecution and fines.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of minors.
- Not smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of minors in the performance of my duties.
- Not abuse alcohol in the presence of minors in the performance of my duties.
- Not use, possess or be under the influence of any illegal drugs at any time.
- Not pose any health risk to minors.
- Not strike, spank, shake or slap any minor.
- Not humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade any minor.
- Not touch a minor in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Not use any discipline that frightens or humiliates minors.
- Not use profanity in the presence of minors.

Printed Name

_____/_____/_____
Date of Birth

Signature

Date

Revised: 2 April 2012