

**ETHICAL VALUES AND STANDARDS OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS PRACTITIONERS
(ACRP)**

**COUNCIL FOR GENERAL MINISTRY
PRACTITIONERS (CGMP)**

1. Introduction

Being affiliated with CGMP (a Professional Council within ACRP) confers on the practitioner the right and privilege to practice his/her profession *as an ACRP affiliate*. Affiliates have moral or ethical duties to their church or ministry members and to society. These duties are in keeping with the principles of the Bible as Word of God, also with principles of the South African Constitution (Act No. 108 of 1996), the Bill of Rights enshrined therein, the obligations imposed on affiliates by the ACRP Rules Document, the Scope of Practice (separate document) and the Ethical Values and Standards for good practice (see below).

2. Core Ethical Values and Standards for Good Practice

The core ethical values and standards for good practice are as set out in this Clause. In addition to this set of core ethical values and standards, an affiliate may subscribe to the ethical values and standards formulated by other institutions, to the extent that those are not in conflict with the core values and standards as contained herein.

The core ethical values and standards that an ACRP/CGMP affiliate subscribes to, are the following:

2.2.1 Respect for all persons: Affiliates should respect all persons and acknowledge their intrinsic worth, dignity and value.

2.2.2 Best Interest and wellbeing: Affiliates should to the best of their ability act in the best interest of persons. No action will be taken that amounts to abuse of power or that could knowingly harm persons physically, emotionally or otherwise. This undertaking however does not preclude the affiliate from exercising his or her right to freedom of expression as enshrined in the Constitution.

2.2.3 Human rights: Affiliates should recognise the human rights of all persons as referred to in the introduction.

2.2.4 Autonomy: Affiliates should honour the right of persons to make their own informed choices. This principle does however not deny the the right and duty of the practioner to proclaim the message of faith and wisdom as contained in the Bible and the relevant faith tradition, as understood and subscribed to by the affiliate. It does also not preclude the right of institutions to set and apply rules of membership of faith institutions in terms of confession and ethical conduct – to the extent that such rules are not in conflict with the core ethical values as contained herein.

- 2.2.5 Integrity: Affiliates should at all times act with integrity in their practice of these core ethical values and standards as a foundation for their character and practice as responsible professionals.
- 2.2.6 Truthfulness: Affiliates should regard honesty, accountability and transparency as a basis for their professional relationships with the persons they minister to.
- 2.2.7 Confidentiality: Affiliates should treat personal or private information as confidential in professional relationships with the persons they minister to - unless overriding reasons confer a moral and lawful obligation to disclose such information.
- 2.2.8 Compassion: Affiliates should be sensitive to, and empathise with, the needs of the persons they minister to, and seek to create a safe environment and mechanisms for support where appropriate and possible.
- 2.2.9 Tolerance: Affiliates should act respectfully towards persons who have different ethical beliefs from deeply held personal, religious or cultural convictions. This principle does however not deny the the right and duty of the affiliate to proclaim the message of faith and wisdom as contained in the Bible and the relevant faith tradition, as understood and subscribed to by the affiliate. It also does not preclude the right of institutions to set and apply rules of membership of faith institutions in terms of confession and ethical conduct - to the extent that such rules are not in conflict with the core ethical values as contained herein.
- 2.2.10 Justice: Affiliates should treat all individuals and groups in an impartial, fair and just manner. This principle does not exclude the affiliate's right and duty to proclaim the message of faith and wisdom as contained in the Bible and the relevant faith tradition, and to apply rules of membership, as previously referred to.
- 2.2.11 Professional competence and self-improvement: Affiliates should continually endeavour to increase their levels of knowledge and skills required within their area of practice.
- 2.2.12 Community: Affiliates should strive to contribute to the betterment of society in accordance with their professional abilities and standing in the community.

3. Duties to the Profession

The affiliate undertakes to report violations and seek redress in circumstances where they have good or persuasive reason to believe that the rights of persons are being violated and/or where the conduct of the affiliates of ACRP is unethical.