

**Presbytery of Carlisle
Commission on Ministry
Code of Ethics**

1. I will honor all confidential information shared with or within the Commission on Ministry. I will not share it with colleagues, friends, or even the Presbytery except as required by the *Book of Order* or the operating rules of Presbytery.
2. When giving a reference concerning a minister of the Presbytery, I will confine my answers to matters on which I have direct knowledge and competence or that could otherwise be substantiated by reference to public records. I will not knowingly libel or slander a colleague in ministry.
3. I will be discreet in the way I conduct myself as a member of the Commission on Ministry. I will not knowingly take actions that would embarrass colleagues or signal others that trouble exists when they would not be entitled to that knowledge.
4. I will treat my colleagues and particular churches of the Presbytery fairly and equally. I will, like a good mediator, balance the power of disputes and will move the parties toward reconciliation and wholeness insofar as possible.
5. I will be inclusive in my relationships and behaviors with colleagues in governing body life. and will try to empower them for full participation and service in the life of our church.
6. I will seek to avoid conflicts of interest by absenting myself from deliberations of the Commission on Ministry when matters are introduced which specifically and directly pertain to my personal interests or interests of my particular congregation or a congregation I have served in the past. I will absent myself if I, or others, believe my presence may be hindering to the Commission on Ministry and/or a candidate.
7. I will not use my friendships with other members of the Commission on Ministry to attempt to influence the outcome of matters which pertain to my personal interests or the interests of my church.
8. I will make myself available within reason to other ministers and active elders of the Presbytery who ask me to hear them out. I will warn them that the matters they share with me may not be kept from secular authorities or the courts of the church in some special areas, such as child abuse, and that they should therefore exercise discretion in what they say to me. I will encourage them to talk with the Executive Presbyter or to other qualified specialists as the situation demands and I may provide information on the conversation to the Executive Presbyter.
9. I will not accept remuneration or personal gifts from ministers or churches of the Presbytery, except when offering some special extended service (moderator of session, long term conflict consultant, or pulpit supply). I will report any and all such gifts to the Commission on Ministry and will accept its counsel in the disposition of such gifts and conform to its guidelines in cases of special remuneration.
10. I will respect the collective wisdom of the Commission on Ministry and its staff. In working with churches and ministers, I will remember that I am an agent of the committee. I will fairly represent the position of the Commission on Ministry or others with whom we work (PNCs, etc.) and will not present my own personal position or views as the position of the commission when my position or views may be different from those of the commission. I will not knowingly ignore, by-pass or act contrary to the *Book of Order*.
11. I will seek to conduct myself in the manner consistent with my office and as disciple of Jesus Christ.