



POLITY STATEMENT

The vows printed below are the vows that will be taken at the Renewal Service for each candidate for licensing. Each candidate is asked to sign this copy as a record of his or her vows.

I believe the doctrines as taught by the Churches of God, General Conference are true and correct.

I believe that in seeking the office of Christian Ministry I am influenced by a sincere love for God, my Savior, and that I desire to promote His glory in salvation of men.

I promise faithfully and zealously to preach the truths of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as contained in the Holy Scriptures.

I promise, by the aid of God, to cooperate faithfully with the Region and to carry out and obey all rules and regulations thereof.

I promise to preach all such and only such doctrines as are taught and practiced by the Churches of God, General Conference, as a body, as long as I remain a minister in said body.

If for any cause the Conference should deem it proper to recall my credentials, I promise to deliver the same upon official request.

In addition to the above vows, each candidate for licensing is asked to sign the following promise with specific reference to the polity of our church and professional ethics.

I promise to be zealous and faithful in maintaining the truth of the Gospel and peace of the church against whatever persecution or opposition may arise; to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all private and personal duties which become a Christian and a minister of the Gospel; I will endeavor to adorn the professions of the Gospel ministry with Holy consecration, and to walk with exemplary piety before the flock over which God shall make me an overseer; I will “study to show myself approved unto God, a workman unashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth”, and to cooperate with the Annual Conference, and the General Conference in carrying out the work of the church.

I understand that the Allegheny Region Conference of the Churches of God is presbyterial in polity. I understand that this means the Conference has authority over the local church and over me. I understand that I am given my credentials and approved for ministry by the Conference on a yearly basis. I understand that in accepting credentials from the Allegheny Region Conference I place myself in submission to the Conference.

Specifically, I promise that I will be subject to the authority and discipline of the Conference at all times so long as I hold credentials with the Conference. This

promise does not in any way deny my right to hold and express opinions that may be at variance with official policies and positions of the Conference if these differences are a matter of conscience, but this promise does obligate me to express such disagreements with love, respect, and loyalty to the Conference so that I do not cause division in the body.

I promise that I will treat the leaders of my conference with respect and support them in their work even when I disagree with them and that I will cultivate this respect among the people I serve.

I promise that I will do nothing to undermine the work or reputation of the Allegheny Region Conference or General Conference in the churches I serve.

I promise that if I should ever choose to leave the Allegheny Region Conference, or should my license be recalled, I will leave in an honorable and ethical manner. I promise that I will submit my resignation and return my credentials as directed by the Conference. I promise that in leaving, I will do nothing to harm the church I serve and will do everything in my power to see that the church is left in good order and ready to receive the ministry of my successor. I promise that, in leaving, I will not attempt to organize a new church that will compete with the church I leave and that I will not take people with me to another church.

Before God, I accept and affirm the above vows and promises and pledge that I will honor and keep them.

Signature

Date