

Clergy and Spiritual Directors Ethical Agreements

Clergy Ethical Agreement

As the ordaining body, The ChI Interfaith Community, we are committed to holding ourselves accountable to the ethical standards of our profession. This document is designed to honor and protect our students, faculty, community, and those we serve.

As an ethical lodestar, all ChI Clergy in Good Standing are asked to follow The Common Code of Ethics for Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, Pastoral Educators and Students. It was created by:

- The Association of Professional Chaplains (APC)
- The American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC)
- The Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)
- The National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC)
- The National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC)
- The Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education (CARRE/ACPEP)

Ministry can be an isolating role. The pressure to seem wise, evolved, totally capable, and “having it all together” can lead people to embrace unhealthy coping mechanisms. Becoming a professional clergy member may also place an individual under great stress. Unattended stress can result in clergy who do not take care of their own needs (co-dependency) while they tend the needs of others. This can lead to health issues as well as the misuse of personal power.

One of the benefits of being part of this community is being alongside others in community and support. If you are concerned that you are in need of support or care beyond what you’ve found, please contact us. You are not alone.

The ChI Interfaith Community reserves the right to request of our students and ordained clergy that they receive treatment for alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or other addictions.

The individuals we work with may come to us in injured, needy, vulnerable, and receptive states. Violation of their trust is an abuse of the highest order.

The ChI Interfaith Community reserves the right to deny ordination, or to revoke ecclesial endorsement (your Clergy in Good Standing status), based on ministerial conduct that is at odds with the standards set forth in The Common Code of Ethics.

This includes, but is not limited to the following behaviors:

- Sexual abuse or sexual relations with clients
- Harmful addictions to the extent of impairing one’s ability to serve ethically and successfully in a ministerial role
- Violence or criminal behavior, including deception, misrepresentation, and other behaviors not conducive to ministry

Please review the full text of The Common Code of Ethics. You can find it at this link

https://www.professionalchaplains.org/Files/professional_standards/professional_ethics/apc_code_of_ethics.pdf

Spiritual Directors Ethical Agreement

[SDI Guidelines for Ethical Conduct](#)