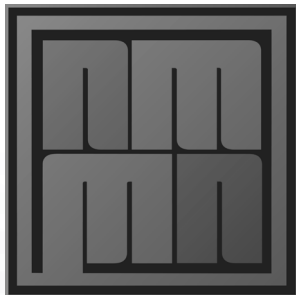


**New Mexico
Ministry Network**

**Values
We
Share**



NEW MEXICO MINISTRY NETWORK VISION STATEMENT

OUR HISTORICAL MISSION

We exist to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, and to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints, being perfected in the image of His son.

(Statement of our forefathers District Constitution and Bylaws, April 24-25, 1940—Tucumcari, New Mexico)

REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

We exist to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, and to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints, being perfected in the image of His son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

(Revised 2013)

OUR VISION

In order to accomplish these things we, the New Mexico Network, commit ourselves to the Mission, the Minister, and the Movement, recognizing the importance to Locate, Educate, and Motivate.

We exist to provide supportive relationships, locate needed resources that will further educate our ministers, providing motivation for corporate awareness, appreciating the diversity of our churches, building on our common strengths, and exploring all possibilities in order to fulfill the mission of Christ.

(Adopted April 5, 2000—District Council in session)

Values We Share

As ministers, we are God's servants. We preach the Gospel, teach the doctrines of Christ, and live our lives as His examples. We are ministers of His Church, and we follow in the sacred footsteps of those whom God filled with His Holy Spirit and wisdom to pursue serving Him in vocational ministry.

Our task as ministers is an important one. As a result, we have a set of values to which we adhere. These values are designed to foster our effectiveness in relationships with others as we bear witness to the Gospel.

The values we share revolve around three important concepts:

1. Integrity: being the right person. (Matt. 22:37)
2. Ethics: doing the right things. (Gal. 6:7)
3. Courtesy: loving as Jesus loved (Matt. 22:39)

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Integrity in Relationship to God

Personal Devotions

The bedrock of a personal relationship with God is a personal devotional life.

As ministers, we must keep our relationship with Christ current and vital. The demands of ministry cannot be allowed to replace or crowd out our private devotions.

Spiritual Disciplines

We should practice spiritual disciplines and live disciplined lives.

We derive a variety of spiritual disciplines from Scripture. While opinions may differ as to what disciplines are most important, we need to regularly engage in activities that put us in a place where God can work in our lives. Regularly practicing spiritual disciplines involves, among other things, Scripture memorization, fasting, silence, and solitude.

Lifelong Ongoing Spiritual Development

We can't afford to assume that we have reached the pinnacle of spiritual growth. As a result, we should yield to Scriptural exhortations to grow in our relationship with God in the following ways:

Our devotional life should deepen over time. Journaling is one way of looking back and charting spiritual growth. An objective way of evaluating whether we are making progress in spiritual development is essential.

Our commitment to spiritual disciplines should increase. We should seek fresh fillings of the Spirit during time with the Lord. Encountering His presence should be part of our walk with Him.

Our lives should bear the fruit of the Spirit. We should be sensitive to the Spirit's leading in our everyday interactions.

Integrity in Relationship to Myself

Intellectual Integrity

Ministry in the Word has a clear intellectual component. Dealing with the complex issues of life and people requires the best intellectual skills we have to offer. We need to be devoted, life-long learners. Just as many professions require continuing education programs, we should also seek to foster the life of the mind.

Physical Integrity

Maintaining healthy physical bodies is a part of proclaiming a healthy Gospel.

Although culture overemphasizes physical attributes, we should take care of our physical bodies. Without proper nutrition, sleep, and exercise, it is impossible to be at our best. A slovenly body projects a slovenly message.

Emotional Integrity

Healthy emotions are essential for ministerial integrity and developing healthy relationships. Extreme moodiness, temper outbursts, bitterness, and envy characterize an unhealthy minister. Conversely, the fruit of the Spirit characterizes a healthy heart. Unhealthy relationships form around unhealthy emotions.

Volitional Integrity

We cannot afford to allow things that impair our will to take up lodging in our lives. Life is a series of choices. How we handle these choices will dictate much of what happens in our lives. Illicit drugs and alcohol

impair our ability to make appropriate judgments and decisions.

Moral Integrity

Dealing with moral issues requires us to cultivate lives of moral integrity. We must be willing to take precautions in order to protect ourselves from even the perception of impropriety.

We must be garrisoned against moral indiscretions, whether blatant or subtle, innocent, or not so innocent. This world is becoming increasingly unwholesome. Without a vigilant heart and mind, fleshly stimulations have the power to wreak havoc on our lives and ministries. Even the appearance of indiscretion can compromise our effectiveness and integrity as ministers.

In pastoral counseling settings, we must know when to refer and/or to withdraw from relationships that become unhealthy. The overwhelming majority of moral failures in pastoral ministry arise out of the pastoral counseling setting. As a result, we must recognize and respond to relational danger signs. A needy minister cannot be a healthy counselor. Thus, we must take great care to guard against unhealthy emotional attachment to the counselee.

Financial Integrity

We who handle spiritual matters must be faithful in financial matters. Jesus taught that the right handling of finances was a beginning step in Biblical discipleship. If we cannot be trusted with money, we certainly cannot be trusted with the hearts and lives of people. Failure to honor the Lord with the

tithe is just as much a breakdown of integrity as any other moral failure.

Recreational Integrity

Finding Biblical balance is vitally important in hobbies and activities. There are twin dangers in this area—that of having no recreational pursuits and that of having too many. Recreation is essential for a healthy mind and body. We all need times when life is fun! However, when family or ministerial responsibilities take a back seat to recreational pursuits, integrity crumbles.

Integrity in Relationship to Family

The Minister's Spouse

Just as healthy marriages are the bedrock of a healthy society, healthy marriages are the bedrock of healthy ministries. Marriage is the first God-ordained human relationship. The first ministerial call and the focal point of ministry, therefore, must be to our spouse. Ministering to our spouse must be more important, both in time and attention, than pursuing successful ministry.

The Minister's Children

Ministers who have children are parents before they are anything else. God never intended that children be offered as sacrifices on the altar of ministry. If we do not have the respect of our family, we cannot expect to have the respect of any congregation nor the blessing of God upon our service. While we are not guaranteed that our children will not stray, our children's salvation must be our highest priority.

The Minister's Household

Ministry happens in the parsonage as

well as in the pulpit. Our household affairs need to be in balance and in order. A home that is well-maintained, receptive of guests, and a good testimony in the community is basic to ministry effectiveness, not an optional luxury.

Integrity in Relationship to Ministry

Professional Integrity

The work of the ministry is counted as a profession and should be treated in a professional manner. The character of our lives should not bring reproach upon our ministry. Our calling dictates that our lives should be free from laziness, slothfulness, and sloppiness. Ministry is not a hobby; it is a life calling. We should never be guilty of handling it with less respect than those in other professions.

Denominational Integrity

As members of the Assemblies of God, we have an obligation to be supportive and affirming of our fellowship. It is incumbent upon us to stand faithfully alongside those with whom we are organizationally affiliated. We need to handle disagreements in a way that brings resolution rather than increasing the level of friction and conflict—at no time should we speak disparagingly of a fellow minister. While there is room for disagreement on many non-essentials, we should avoid competition and division, being willing to submit to the elders when necessary.

Integrity in Relationship to Community

The ministry should be seen as a community asset rather than a liability. Whatever the tenor or political climate of a community may be, the minister must have

good rapport in the community. There are times that the church must stand its ground on matters of Biblical principle, but it must do so without losing its voice in that community.

Every minister is a Christian with a divine mandate to take the Gospel to the whole word. We must be intentional about building relationships and sharing our faith with those who have not yet come to Christ. We need to model a right relationship to the world we live in before we can expect anyone to follow.

Doctrinal Ethics

Statement of Fundamental Truths

As Assemblies of God ministers, we must embrace and clearly declare each of the Fundamental Truths. From time to time, these doctrines are challenged. It is our responsibility to stand in support of these established statements.

Financial Integrity

Tithing

Because the General Council takes an affirmative position on the responsibility of all believers to tithe, it is incumbent upon us as leaders in the church to tithe to both the General Council and Ministry Network. A full tithe of ministerial income is to be contributed to the New Mexico Ministry Network. General Council obligations can be deducted from this amount. Ministers who do not tithe disqualify themselves from ministry.

Solicitation of Funds

Any solicitation of funds must have prior authorization from the New Mexico Ministry Network, General Council, or local church,

depending upon the scope of solicitation.

Private Ownership of Religious Institutions

The General Council disapproves of church properties being held in the name of any minister in any fashion. All church properties should be titled to the appropriate corporation.

Dealing with Debt

A habit of running into debt brings reproach upon the ministry. As ministers, we must appropriately manage our debt load and be responsible for timely repayment. Failure to do so is a disciplinary matter. Filing for bankruptcy should be avoided. The appropriateness of bankruptcies is evaluated on an individual case basis by the Network officary and has potential credential ramifications.

Ethics in Relationship to the Church

Safeguarding the Assemblies

The General Council recommends that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers. No one should be granted and opportunity to minister in the church without investigation into the spiritual integrity and reliability of that minister or ministry. An individual who has been dismissed from ministry by the Assemblies of God may not pastor or be used in a ministry position in the local church.

Assemblies Resulting from Division

We should make every effort to maintain unity in the local church.

A Commitment to Ministerial Courtesy

Ministerial Courtesy Within a Cooperative Fellowship

No minister should be guilty of recruiting members who are part of another

congregation to leave the church they are attending to join another congregation. When individuals move between congregations, communication between the respective pastors should be and must be the natural and primary response. Affirmation and support of our colleagues and sister congregations is always the right thing to do. We should have no interaction with members of another congregation of which the local pastor is not fully aware and supportive.

Ministerial Courtesy in Pastoral Succession

It is always inappropriate to speak ill of either a predecessor or a successor in any ministry position. When a pastor leaves a congregation, the relationships that are left behind cannot continue at the same level of intimacy that they had before. If a minister's relationship with former congregants in any way impedes the successor's ability to build relationships and fulfill his or her calling to that congregation, the former pastor must find healthy ways to pull back from those relationships.

When a pastor leaves a congregation under duress, the successor's goal should be to enhance the healing and unity of that congregation rather than edifying him or herself through personal aggrandizement.

Ministerial Courtesy While Serving as Staff Pastor

A staff pastor should always be supportive and loyal to the ministry team and to the senior pastor, specifically. A supportive staff is a wonderful complement to the ministry of a senior pastor. Conversely, disloyalty by staff pastors causes great and lasting damage to the Kingdom. If a staff pastor is

unable to be supportive, that pastor should resign with grace, leaving no damage behind.

Ministerial Courtesy While Serving as Lead Pastor

Ministry is not about hierarchy, but about relationship and serving others.

Every minister has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Senior pastors have the responsibility, not only to lead, but also to provide biblical oversight to those who minister alongside them on a ministry team. Staff pastors need the support, clear direction and affirmation of their senior pastor.

Ministerial Courtesy in Serving the Fellowship

Ministers have an ethical responsibility to treat the Fellowship with the utmost courtesy by participating with and defending its leadership, ministers, and ministries. The Assemblies of God provides credentials, training, support, accountability, and ministry opportunities for all of its membership. The members should reciprocate with active financial, prayerful, and verbal support. Those who cannot support the Fellowship should withdraw from affiliation.

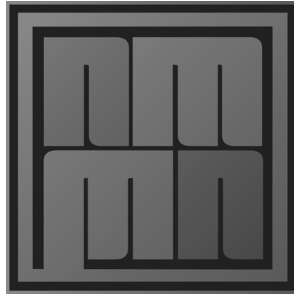
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New Mexico Ministry Network

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