

# IFCA INTERNATIONAL STANDARD OF ETHICS FOR CHURCHES

*The following standards are recommended in an effort to create a professional understanding within IFCA International as we endeavor to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline, and promote the integrity of our churches. Endeavoring to uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of our church and the IFCA Doctrinal Statement, and recognizing Scripture as our final authority, we purpose that our manner of life will be worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:27).*

## **Concerning Myself**

- I will endeavor to practice personal and family worship, training my children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, and seeking the salvation of my family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and acquaintances.
- I will endeavor, unless providentially hindered, to faithfully attend gatherings for worship, prayer, study, and fellowship, and will use my spiritual gifts for the common good.
- I will endeavor to strive by God's grace and power to live as Christ in the world; and denying ungodliness and worldly lusts I will seek to fulfill my calling by leading a holy life and being salt and light.
- I will endeavor to abide by the standards of sexual purity, ethical integrity, and spiritual fidelity as taught in the Bible.
- I will endeavor that if, in the providence of God, I am led from this church, I will with the spirit of grace diligently seek to unite with another church where I can continue to carry out the spirit and principles of God's Word.

## **Concerning Our Congregation**

- We will endeavor through the power of the Holy Spirit to watch over one another in brotherly love, remembering one another in prayer, helping one another in sickness and distress, cultivating Christian compassion and courtesy, believing that the pursuit of peace with others and personal holiness accompany true faith in Christ.
- We will endeavor to be slow to take offense, eager to seek the reconciliation Christ commands, and will work to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- We will endeavor to rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.
- We will endeavor to faithfully participate in the ordinances of our church. We will both submit to the church's discipline upon ourselves and lovingly assume our responsibility to participate in the discipline of other members, as taught in Scripture.
- We will endeavor to allow the Holy Spirit to put away our bitterness, wrath, anger, quarrelling, and slander; being kind to one another, in tenderheartedness forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us.
- We will use the IFCA Doctrinal Statement and the Constitution of our church as our governing standards and the Scriptures as our final authority.

## **Concerning Our Pastor(s)**

- We will endeavor to love our pastor and his family, regularly praying for them.
- We will endeavor to support our pastor's ministry by encouraging him and offering to share the burdens of his life and ministry.
- We will endeavor to serve in the ministries of this church alongside our pastor, being eager to respond to his Scriptural leadership.
- We will endeavor, when we have a disagreement with our pastor, to do so with a spirit of grace and peace, discussing the issue privately with him, always respecting his Biblical office.

## **Concerning Our Finances**

- We will endeavor to contribute cheerfully and regularly to this church for its general ministry expenses, the evangelism of the lost, the relief of the poor, the cause of spiritual growth and revival, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.
- We will endeavor to generously and creatively provide for the financial and material welfare of our pastor(s) and any other staff we may call.
- We will endeavor as a church to be ethical regarding business standards of financial accountability and above reproach in accordance with current legal practices and requirements.
- We will endeavor to designate in our corporate dissolution clause ministries of like-minded faith and doctrine.

## **Concerning Our Fellowship**

We will cooperate with the personnel of IFCA International leadership and of the Regional in which we serve, and offer regular support in order that our common service in the kingdom of God might be more effective. Furthermore, we will use our influence to affirm and edify the fellowship of this church with the Regional and with the organization of IFCA International.