

# Financial Integrity Indicators



The Executive Presbytery adopted the following guidelines outlining specific standards for financial accountability and has requested that this be published in the ministers letter and included in all application materials being sent to credential applicants:

## A Credentialed Minister with a commitment to personal financial integrity agrees to...

- Pay tithes, as indicated by the teaching of Scripture.
- Pay all dues, as agreed upon by leadership commitments to the Fellowship and the district.
- Avoid any debt load that makes it difficult to pay all bills.
- Pay all bills on time, avoiding delinquency.
- Report honestly to the IRS.
- Follow the tax laws of the federal, state, and local governments.
- Resist credit card debt that cannot be paid off within a short period of time (recommend less than 6 months).
- Seek the help of wise, godly counsel when any of the positive activities above are not followed.
- Procure adequate life insurance, and contribute regularly to a retirement plan.

## A Credentialed Minister with a commitment to personal financial integrity also agrees to refrain from...

- Soliciting of funds in accordance with Bylaws Article IX, Section 7.
- Borrowing personal funds from the church and/or church members.
- Having church members co-sign for personal loans.
- Incurring church debt without appropriate approval.
- Intermingling church funds with personal funds.
- Investing church funds in unproven schemes, including high-risk investments and day trading.
- Promoting personal business ventures in the church.
- Making careless or unwise decisions regarding the proper handling of church finances, offerings or assets (improper counting procedures, inappropriate depositing procedures, etc.).
- Appropriating church funds for personal use without proper authorization.
- Being the sole signatory on any church bank or investment account.

- Providing investment advice, or promoting investments, to congregation members.

A credentialed minister with a commitment to personal financial integrity also agrees to seek the help of wise, godly counsel when any of the concerns above occur.

## Warning signs of a potential breach in financial integrity...

- Bills that are habitually late.
- Only paying the minimum on credit cards.
- Using more than 30 percent of the available limit on any credit cards.
- Frequently opening new credit card accounts.
- Any unresolved tax liens or judgments.
- Low credit score.
- Failure to provide timely/ accurate financial records.
- Pattern of overspending beyond budgeted limits (personal).
- Bankruptcy filings.
- Exemption from Social Security.