

# **Star of Hope Spiritualist Church**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS FOR ORDAINED MINISTERS**

### **A. Overview**

The Seven Spiritual Principles provide the basic foundation as a religion, philosophy and science, and therein the parameters under which a Star of Hope (SOH) ordained minister must adhere to when representing themselves as a Spiritualist

### **B. Procedural Details**

**Principles** - Ministers are required to:

- Uphold and maintaining the Seven Principles, promote and support the work of the Star of Hope Spiritualist Church.
- At all times, when representing Spiritualism conduct themselves in a manner respectful of the religion.

**General Conduct** - Ministers will:

- At all times, act with honesty, integrity, and diligence;
- Contribute to a positive and healthy environment for all people involved in the spiritualist movement;
- Discharge all duties with integrity and strive towards attaining a high standard of professional decorum;
- Respect the confidentiality of personal and privileged information;
- Abide by the laws of Canada, as well as those of the province in which they reside and/or operate
- Except with authorization, ensure that actions do not result in financial or other liability for the Star of Hope Spiritualist Church;
- Work collaboratively with Ministers within the SOH and other spiritual organizations around the world.

### **Minister - Congregant Relationship:**

The relationship between minister and congregant requires that the minister understand their unique position of authority and perceived power. Ministers have a duty of care and responsibility to ensure that parishioners are treated with dignity and respect.

When providing service, ministers are required to:

- a) Treat congregants in a manner that maintains dignity and respects their beliefs, culture, customs and habits;
- b) Provide assistance within their recognized capacity to do so;
- c) Understand the client's vulnerability and act accordingly;
- d) Provide assistance regardless of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, language, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, physical characteristics, political opinions

- or other ground of discrimination prohibited under applicable provincial and federal laws or tenets of Spiritualism;
- e) Respect the privacy of information being shared with respect to his or her personal information, image and property.

**Breaches Regarded as Serious Misconduct:**

The following behaviour or actions are considered serious acts of misconduct:

- a) Action or speech that is humiliating, neglectful, dishonest, threatening, abusive, bullying, exploitive, illegal, sexist, phobic, or racist;
- b) Exercising any professional activity without valid certification(s);
- c) Engaging in, or being associated with, any business or activity that is, or may be, in conflict with the interests of the Star of Hope Spiritualist Church

**C: Off Duty Conduct**

Ministers should remember that they may be seen as representatives at any time, even when off duty. Off duty activities that, in the absence of reasonable justification, adversely affect Spiritualism, or which, when seen through the eyes of a reasonable observer discredit the SOH are also breaches of the Code of Conduct.

**D: Proof of Compliance**

All ministers with the SOH are required to sign the Code of Conduct every 5 years unless this document is revised or there is reasonable cause to revisit this signed document before that time. The SOH will keep their copy in a secure location at their head office.

**E: Disciplinary Action**

A breach of the Code of Conduct is subject to disciplinary action. The nature of disciplinary action will take into account harm to the individual and/or harm to the reputation of Spiritualism.

Disciplinary action includes removal or suspension of ministerial rights and membership revoked, where circumstances warrant.

**F: Responsibilities:**

The SOH Board of Directors is responsible for advising the minister of this policy and notifying them of any breaches that come to their attention. All reports will be addressed in an impartial and neutral manner in order to ensure that all matters are treated fairly

I, the undersigned, have read and understand all the information in this document and I agree to conduct my activities in accordance with its contents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Title

Date (d/m/y): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

Date (d/m/y): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Last Criminal Reference Check and Vulnerable Person's Check: (d/m/y)

I agree to provide a copy of my Criminal Reference Check including Vulnerable Person's Check at my own expense every 5 years. (initial)

I will notify the Spiritualist Church of Canada immediately if anything should happen that would affect the standing on the last Check. (initial)