

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE
CLERGY ETHICS COURSE
JUNE 16-17, 2023

INSTRUCTORS:
REV. DR. KEVIN WALDEN AND REV. TIM MUNSON

PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Do a complete reading of the textbook entitled, Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders, second edition, by Joseph E. Trull and James Carter.
2. Read provided case studies prior to the class event.
3. Select a Congregational Ethics Team (CET) consisting of three or four lay persons from your congregation. (Fill out worksheet provided) Please use the following guidelines:
 - Membership is by invitation of the pastor/student.
 - Team members are persons with whom the pastor/student has a comfortable working relationship.
 - Team members may be representative of the Pastoral Relations Committee, Diaconate, Board of Deacons, Church Officers, and/or any active church member. (If you are taking the course and not currently a pastor, please invite persons to be on the CET from the church where you are a member).
4. Select an accountability partner using the following guidelines and place on worksheet provided:
 - We do not recommend using your spouse for this.
 - We recommend a same-sex accountability partner who will both support and encourage your ministry and your spouse and family.
 - This person does not have to be in your local church. They must be a Christian. A mentor in ministry is appropriate.
5. Meet with your CET prior to the course and take notes of their responses. Prepare and bring your detailed notes for discussion of the following items: (instructors will ask to see these)
 - Read with the Congregational Ethics Team the case study called, “Time For The Family.”

- Discuss with the CET the questions provided at the end of the case study, plus the additional questions listed below:
 - What information from the textbook, Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders, sheds light on the case study? Discuss with your CET.
 - What are the Biblical passages that relate to the case study? (In other words, “What saith the Lord?” or, “What has God already revealed in His written word on this subject?”) Discuss with your CET – gain their input.
 - How is ministry affected?
 - When and how does the case study (issues, themes, etc.) Ministerial "Code of Ethics"? Congregational Code of Ethics? (Refer to the document: “A Covenant For Ministry”)
 - What have you learned from a pastor’s perspective; from a CET member’s perspective? Prepare written responses to all questions regarding this case study and bring with you on Friday May 19. Limit responses to a few salient points. The case will be reviewed in class.

POST-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Write a reflection paper** which connects and is informed by your reading of the Ethics book, the course teaching, the reflections by your CET (Clergy Ethics Team) on the case study “A Time for Family,” and the personal ethics statement you created. This should be **4-6 pages**, double-spaced. in length not including the title page.
2. **Write a Personal Ethics Statement** that is concise and memorable. The CET would be an excellent “sounding board” and resource for aiding in the development of the Personal Ethics Statement. This should be **1 page** in length and suitable for framing.
3. **Turn in a signed copy of the American Baptist Covenant and Code of Ethics**. This will be placed in your file at the region office. It is a covenant you make with the churches that you serve and into retirement.

EVALUATION STRATEGIES:

In order to receive continuing education credit the following list needs to be completed to the satisfaction of the lead instructor (Kevin Walden)

- A list of the CET members, including addresses.
- The name of the Accountability Partner, including address.
- Visual acceptance of your notes from your pre-class meeting with your CET
- The completion of the reflection paper following the guidelines established in class discussions and handouts. Must be received by the designated due date unless special circumstances, agreed to by the instructor, are warranted.
- The completed Personal Ethics Statement following the guidelines established in class discussions and handouts.
- A signed copy of the American Baptist Code of Ethics for your region file.

In order to better facilitate and instruct the Clergy Ethics Course, all participants will be asked to complete an Instructor and Course Evaluation.

Deadline **August 1st.**

Email completed material to Dr. Walden at Rev.Kevin.Walden@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Kevin Walden
610-955-1253

**Clergy Ethics Team and Accountability Partner
Worksheet**

(Your Name)

The following have agreed to be members of my Clergy Ethics Team.
(Names and Addresses and full contact information)

1)

2)

3)

4)

The following has agreed to be my Accountability Partner. (NOT MY SPOUSE)
(Name and Address)

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Signature _____ Date _____

Bring this worksheet with you to the Clergy Ethics Course.