

## **FUND-RAISING ETHICS CODE FOR A FAITH MINISTRIES**

Conscious of our responsibility to our Lord Jesus Christ and to His Church, respectful of the directives of the Scriptures, as well as the laws of the land, and acknowledging the changeless principles of good stewardship in this ever-changing world, we affirm adherence to the following precepts in our financial development efforts:

- I. That all truly Christian giving is an act of love in response to God's love.
- II. That the order of concern in seeking gifts for the ministries of the organization shall be first: that of pleasing God; second: that of respecting the donor; and third: that of strengthening the ministries.
- III. That churches and independent offerings from Christians shall be the primary source of funding, with other sources secondary.
- IV. That great prudence shall be exercised with regard to obtaining, maintaining and utilizing lists of names and addresses of present, prospective and past benefactors.
- V. That appeals shall be marked by a dignity, clarity of language, and a validity of purpose in harmony with the highest Christian principles, stressing the love of God as the motivation for giving.
- VI. That appeals for undefined future needs shall be avoided.
- VII. That exaggerated claims of achievement, guaranteed results, and unreasonable promises shall be avoided.
- VIII. That in the event items for response are incorporated in any appeal, they shall be in good taste, presented as gifts without obligation or constraint of payment. Appeals should not be associated with material gifts that are inconsistent with the ministries of the organization.
- IX. That similarity of copy, art work and general presentation is unavoidable in closely related fields of Christian endeavor; however, the exact reproduction or evident imitation of the material of another organization without permission is reprehensible.
- X. That financial development personnel shall have approval of appropriate authority for all fund- raising and promotional activities. Fund-raising authority shall not be vested in any single person.
- XI. That we will not enter into any arrangement or contract involving payment in the form of a percentage or commission of funds raised.
- XII. That in any arrangement or contract with commercial suppliers or consultants, we will maintain control over materials designs money and general operations.

- XIII. That employed representatives shall conduct their activities within generally accepted professional standards of accuracy, truth and good taste, and have objectives consonant with this organization's program.
- XIV. That consideration shall always be given to avoid undue conflict with appeals by other agencies of the Church.
- XV. That donations will be acknowledged promptly, and reasonable requests from donors for information will be met.
- XVI. That whenever possible, designations related to gifts will be honored. When impossible, the donor will be notified in a manner appropriate to the circumstances.
- XVII. That sound business practice is fundamental to good stewardship. Particularly we, as receivers of moneys given in trust, have the binding obligation of full accountability in accordance with the most stringent ethical, legal and fiscal standards.
- XVIII. That investment of fiduciary funds shall be accomplished with the utmost care, with the involvement of carefully selected professional counsel with a firmly established record of prudent practice and good performance.
- XIX. That annual financial reports shall be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, showing reasonable detail, and that their availability upon demand shall be publicized.
- XX. That, within the restraints of orderly and proper practice, the maximum amount possible of funds entrusted to us shall be applied at the point of need.