

THE BLACK HILLS SPIRITUAL CENTER FOR PEACE CODE OF ETHICS

(Adapted from Unity Worldwide Ministries)

Introduction and Intention

Foundational to the Black Hills Spiritual Center for Peace (BHSCP) principles and teachings is the belief that we are individualized expressions of God; that our spiritual purpose is to give expression to God. This calls us, as BHSCP a Board, ministers, spiritual leaders, practitioners, to live from our Christ Consciousness in all circumstances---thereby, being a healing presence and a role model for those we serve. Because of this, it is our intention to be accountable to a high level of professional ethics.

Our Code of Ethics articulates a vision of ethical behavior grounded in our beliefs and teachings. Its purpose is to provide guidelines for behavior that is both ethical and authentic, and allows us to give full expression to our Christ Consciousness. This document also serves the intention of allowing us to hold one another accountable to this standard. When we fall short, the Ethics Review Process (to be developed by the BHSCP Board of Directors) seeks to provide a compassionate process that calls us back to integrity and wholeness. We seek to restore, to rehabilitate and to make amends whenever possible.

We also recognize that there are certain violations of our covenant that must be addressed. Some behaviors are explicitly illegal, and such violations may require suspension of the offending individual from their position by the leadership at the BHSCP Center. Some behaviors and attitudes are unethical by our standards and compromise our ability to perform and provide ministry. Other behaviors and attitudes harm us and interfere with our ministry and our own efforts toward wholeness. Ministers/spiritual leaders who act in ways that are inconsistent with our Code of Ethics may be subject to review through our Ethics Review Process. We seek to address these violations honestly, directly, and in such a manner as to assist one another in living our highest potential as well as to provide a strong example for ethical behavior, accountability and transparency to our community.

The following Standards apply to those representing The BHSCP Center:

I. BHSCP Spiritual Leaders

The spiritual leader relationship pre-supposes certain role expectations; the minister/spiritual leader is expected to make available certain resources, talents, knowledge, and expertise which will serve the best interests of our center. The role of minister/spiritual leader carries with it authority and power. In this role the minister/spiritual leader pledges the following:

- A. I will fulfill my responsibility and use this power to benefit the people who call upon me for service. I will offer acceptance and support to all people with whom I have contact regardless of age, race, socio-economic status, creed, nationality, gender identity or sexual orientation. When people are angry, critical, or unkind, I will respond compassionately.
- B. I will conduct my work, private and public, after the standards and in accord with the teachings and ideals of The BHSCP Center without competition and contention, realizing that the more truly I practice the spiritual principles of BHSCP, the greater will be the good to each and all immediately concerned and to the community at large.
- C. I will maintain the boundaries of the ministerial trust. In honor of that trust, I will not exploit nor violate the emotional, spiritual or physical well-being of people who come to me for help or over whom I have any kind of authority. I will not use my authority to defame or manipulate individuals or groups, or foster division within the ministry. I will not create or cultivate dependencies. I will avoid situations and relationships which could impair my professional judgment or compromise the integrity of the ministry. I will not exploit situations or relationships for personal gain.
- D. As a minister/spiritual leader, I shall work within my professional qualifications and limitations. People with needs beyond my expertise shall be referred to a qualified professional.
- E. Confidentiality:
 - 1. I am honor bound to hold sacred all confidences reposed in me, except if a confidence reveals that the person confiding may pose a threat to self or others. I will abide by law mandating or authorizing reporting to agencies. In addition, where law shields from liability voluntary disclosure of suspected possible child abuse, elder abuse, dependent adult abuse, or animal abuse, I will make a good faith report of such abuse to the appropriate agencies whether or not reporting is mandated by law.
 - 2. I will never mention, without permission, either privately or publicly, the name, residence, or locality of any person under treatment in the past or present in illustration or verification of Truth principles.
 - 3. I will not use privileged information for personal gain, this includes protecting and not using the BHSCP database for reasons other than official BHSCP business in accordance with the understanding by which the information was collected.
- F. I will refrain from sexual contact and/or sexualized behavior with a congregant, client, or employee with which I have a professional and/or pastoral relationship, realizing it is unethical and deemed clergy

misconduct. (Clergy misconduct involving sexual abuse and /or sexualizing a professional relationship is defined as sexual activity or contact, not limited to sexual intercourse.)

G. I believe that more is taught by what a minister/spiritual leader is than what they say. Therefore, I will seek to keep my morals above reproach. I will exercise good judgment in regard to my social conduct. My relationships will be such as to command only the highest respect. I am conscious of the fact that to be pure in heart is to be pure in conduct also.

H. The Ministerial Relationship to Colleagues

1. I will hold all ministers/spiritual leaders in esteem and respectful regard, and use all rightful means to protect the personal and professional honor of all other ministers/spiritual leaders.
2. I will not interfere with the work of another minister/spiritual leader.

II. BHSCP Practitioners

The New Thought Practitioner operates under the authority and certification granted by The BHSCP Center and Emerson Theological Institute, for the purpose of practicing and disseminating the principles, processes and procedures of Spiritual Mind Treatment (Affirmative Prayer) and acts in a manner reflecting such principles. The speech and conduct of a Practitioner always reflects the dignity of this high profession.

- A. A Practitioner's work is done "entirely in the field of Mind," the highest use of which is Spiritual Mind Treatment.
- B. A Practitioner's Treatment is complete in and of itself, though a client may require additional Treatment to manifest the Mental Equivalent for that which they desire to manifest.
- C. A Practitioner complies with all state and federal laws. Though not a "mandated reporter", a Practitioner will report any compromise of one's safety to the appropriate legal authority.
- D. A Practitioner does not counsel or give advice, but instead asks questions to reveal inner knowing and guides with Spiritual Principles that reveal the light within.
- E. A Practitioner honors the work of other Practitioners and Ministers, creating an atmosphere of Oneness and Spiritual Community.
- F. A Practitioner honors the clients of another Practitioner, and adds to the healing work with consent of the other Practitioner.
- G. The relationship between a Practitioner and client is one of confidence and trust and all that is shared is held confidentially.
- H. A Practitioner joyfully gives Treatment to all who request it, even one who is unable to pay at the time, and treats for the client's demonstration of supply.
- I. A Practitioner financially supports and actively participates in the ongoing growth of the Center and is supportive of its Ministers.

J. A Practitioner demonstrates a centered, aware, principled and loving consciousness in all aspects of their responsibilities. As leaders in the community, Practitioners must be open to receiving input, both positive and negative, from members of the Ministerial Council, Circle of Light and the community and commit to listening and responding appropriately with an open heart.

K. A Practitioner functions under this Code of Ethics in all aspects of their service.

III. BHSCP Board Members and Volunteers

Board members and volunteers represent The BHSCP Center and thus must conduct themselves in a principled manner, demonstrating that they strive to live their lives in accordance with the principles of The BHSCP Center and New Thought teachings, and that they conduct themselves accordingly, particularly when they are in service at or for BHSCP. These Principles include:

- Integrity in word and deed
- Kindness and compassion for all.
- Inclusivity
- Standards of how we treat each other and allow others to treat us and other community members
- Adherence to BHSCP procedures and policies when conducting BHSCP business
- Always doing our best.

IV. Ethics Review Process

- A. When an ethical violation is recognized, BHSCP leaders must call it out. Smaller issues may be resolved between those involved when the issue is considered minor, not harming others or the reputation and standards of the center. Larger ethical issues should be referred to the board or Ministerial Council for a formal Ethics Review. Once referred, the Board and Ministerial Council decides if a formal Review is warranted. If so, a team is created.
- B. The board President will name a board member to sit on the team. 2 members of the Spiritual Leadership will sit on the team, one practitioner (if available) and a lay person from the community.
- C. A meeting will convene, a leader will be voted in by majority who will run the proceeding. Those with knowledge of the situation may be called to speak, as well as the person being called out, all at the discretion of the panel.
- D. After all involved have had a chance to speak, the panel will discuss in private and render a decision regarding what action, if any, is recommended. Recommendations will be presented to the board for a decision.

BHSCP Board members, ministers and Spiritual Leaders must be able to speak frankly about ethical violations in the Ethics Review Process, in Ethics Review Process training, and in evaluations of the Code of Ethics. Performing these activities is not to be

construed as a violation of the Code of Ethics; nor is engaging in communications with the Ethics Review Team about a Minister/Spiritual Leader/Practitioner when a review is in process to be construed as a violation of the Code of Ethics. We trust our leaders to act from a place of ethical conviction and service to the BHSCP Center. We also give each other permission to call us out when we step out of principle, knowing we are all doing our best.

V. My Pledge

I sincerely devote myself to living in accord with this Code in letter and in spirit. I recognize this Code of Ethics as a framework in which I individually agree to function. I recognize that such an agreement augments our mutual and individual effectiveness. If I find myself contemplating or actually functioning outside of this framework, I agree to seek guidance described in the Introduction and Intention of this document. Failure to seek such guidance will mean that, by my own choice, I am functioning outside of the framework of this Code and consequently placing myself outside of the BHSCP Ministry and the mandates of its Board of Directors.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____