

Guiding Principles

- To bring increasing awareness to my interior and exterior lives, and to the quality of my energy and its effect on those around me
- To embrace every experience life presents as an opportunity for growth
- To welcome and accept mystery, non-knowing, complexity and imperfection
- To live and interact with kindness, respect for the fundamental dignity and worth of all people, with cultural awareness and sensitivity
- To take responsibility for my intentions, thoughts, feelings, and actions, and to be aware of my intent in every interaction
- To strive for the “highest good” in every encounter, to enter every situation from a centered place, to meet anger and hatred with love and calmness
- To be self-responsible in every interaction, and to act in ways that create a safe container for honest communication, self-inquiry, and growth. This includes to give and receive skillful feedback, with kindness, and to always say what is true and say only what is useful
- To recognize and explore “blind spots” (areas of unskillfulness, unhealed issues, and places we need to grow), as well as attachments and aversions.
- To seek truth and wisdom within, beyond my individual views and feelings, and to honor the truth within others, especially when different from mine.
- To listen to all sides, work out conflict, find win-win solutions
- To actively explore my own religious tradition, spiritual path, secular practices, cultural norms, family patterns, personal values, and habitual defenses in order to foster my own development and to increase my capacity to relate to others in an open and unbiased way
- To listen for, and be guided by, the quiet voice of Spirit in my life

Code of Ethics - I commit to:

Ongoing deepening of my own spiritual practice and growth, and to my connection to the Divine, via self-reflection, learning, support, and healing, to foster inner peace and skillful action, so that my service to others is always grounded in the integrity and vitality of my own spiritual journey.

Act with professional integrity and not misrepresent myself. This includes to keep my word, fulfill promises or renegotiate them.

Seek ongoing professional guidance, support, supervision, continuing education and professional development.

Be mindful of any power imbalance with those I serve, and always seek to empower them, to honor their resistance, and strive to build trust. I will not hide behind my minister role or persona, and not attribute all issues, concerns, disagreements, discomforts concerning me or our relationship as primarily reflecting some problem or fault of those I serve but rather sincerely strive to recognize and take responsibility for my part.

Maintain healthy, non-exploitative physical and emotional boundaries with those I serve. In particular, I will not engage in any sexual misconduct.

Uphold core values of love, compassion, forgiveness, honesty and authenticity, transparency, open-mind and open-heart, respect, and confidentiality.

Be kind to myself, paying attention and taking responsibility for my continued self-care – physical, psychological, and spiritual – to avoid burnout and counter-transference.

(parts of mission, vision principles, ethics adapted from One Spirit Interfaith Seminary)