

The following statement is to be read from the pulpit at the dissolution of a pastorate or other pastoral relationship, and published for distribution to the active membership:

STATEMENT OF ETHICS

The Presbytery reminds the church of the requirements established by the Book of Order when any minister resigns from a pastorate. (Or retires from service or becomes a pastor emeritus) These requirements have been established for the good of the pastor, the church members, the health of the congregation and the new pastoral relationships that will be established.

When a pastor leaves there will be bonds of affection between the minister and members of the church which will continue to be cherished. Friendships may continue, but the pastoral relationship must end. The minister should cease to perform any functions of a pastor such as funerals, baptisms, and weddings, unless invited to officiate by the pastor or by the moderator of a church without a pastor. Requests made from church members will be respectfully declined. (Refer to the Book of Order Section G-14.0606)

It is hoped that understanding this in advance of a pastor leaving will clarify appropriate communications with the pastor following departure from the church.

Adopted January 2008
Presbytery of North Central Iowa