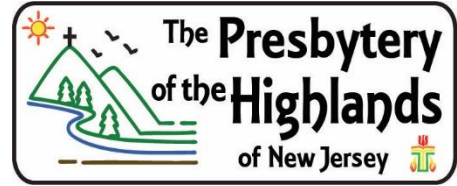


Addendum to Ethical Standards #11 Clarification

Highlands Presbytery of New Jersey

Purpose: Clarify #11 of Ethical Standards for Ministers, limits for honoraria and other financially-related matters, etc.



11. Observe limits set by the appropriate governing body for honoraria, personal business endeavors, and gifts or loans from persons other than family;

- Appropriate Honoraria for weddings, funerals, and similar occasions is \$500 or less.
- Loans from church members or other individuals, other than family members, are never appropriate.
- Gifts from individual church members valued at \$500 or more is not appropriate; gifts from individual church members to curry special favor and/or exert undue influence are never appropriate regardless of value; solicitation of gifts by ministers is never appropriate.
- Personal Business Endeavors, that are not normally associated with pastoral ministry, should not distract the pastor from his/her/their pastoral responsibilities nor target the congregation for financial support.
- Ethical practice is that pastors should not provide fee-based services for on-going counseling treatment or certified spiritual direction sessions to members of the church community. Pastors should refer individuals or couples to licensed professional counselors as soon as possible if on-going treatment is deemed necessary.
- It is not appropriate for a pastor to serve as an executor of a member's estate, in those cases where there are no other options, you must advise the Committee on Ministry.
- Any issues, concerns, or questions about the limits of this policy are to be directed to the COM liaison or presbytery leader or stated clerk.