



# BAPTIST UNION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## CODE OF CONDUCT

(As included in the BUNT Governance Manual)

### 2.5 ***Code of Conduct***

The Board commits itself to biblical, ethical, best practice, and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as Board members. Accordingly,

#### 2.5.1 **Care, Skill and Diligence**

2.5.1.1 A Board Member has a duty to use reasonable care and diligence in fulfilling the functions of the office of Board Member and exercising the powers attached to that office.

2.5.1.2 When delegating powers, the Board must be satisfied as to the delegate's reliability and competency, and must reasonably believe in good faith that the delegate will act in conformity with the Board.

#### 2.5.2 **Good Faith**

A Board Member must act honestly, in good faith, and in the best interests of the organisation as a whole. They must ensure that all stakeholders are treated fairly according to their rights and responsibilities.

#### 2.5.3 **Proper Purpose**

2.5.3.1 Board Members must represent un-conflicted loyalty to the interests of the Member Churches. This accountability supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to advocacy or interest groups and membership on other Boards or staffs. It also supersedes the personal interest of any Board member acting as a 'consumer' of the organisation's services.

2.5.3.2 A Board Member must use the powers of office for a proper organisational purpose, with primary responsibility to the organisation, but also with regard to the interests of all stakeholders of the organisation.

2.5.3.3 A Board Member must not use their position, or information acquired as a Board Member, improperly to gain advantage for the Board Member or for someone else, or to cause detriment to the organisation.

#### 2.5.4 **Confidentiality**

Confidential information received by a Board Member in the course of his or her duties remains the property of the organisation and should not be disclosed to

any other person without the prior written consent of the President unless the disclosure is required by law. No unauthorised recording devices shall be used at meetings.

#### 2.5.5 **Compliance**

2.5.5.1 A Board Member shall not engage in conduct likely to have an adverse effect on the reputation of the organisation. As such a Board Member must comply with all laws and regulations, and act in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

2.5.5.2 All Board Members shall provide at the Board's expense a current Ochre Card. The Secretary will be responsible for updating the Ochre Card register.

2.5.5.3 All Board members shall disclose if they have a criminal record or have been declared a bankrupt.

#### 2.5.6 **Conflict of Interest**

The Board commits itself and its members to ethical and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority. Accordingly, members must avoid conflict of interest. Corporate conflict of interest is regulated by legislation, namely, the Associations Act (NT).

2.5.6.1 There must be no self-dealing or any conduct of private business or personal services between any Board member and the organisation except as procedurally controlled to assure openness, competitive opportunity, and equal access to inside information.

2.5.6.2 Each Board Member must, as soon as he/she becomes aware of his/her interest, disclose it to the Board, and the disclosure must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

2.5.6.3 Board Members must not use their positions to obtain employment for themselves, family members, or close associates.

2.5.6.4 The assessment of whether a Board member is independent is a matter of judgment for the Board as a whole, and all Board members are required to disclose to the Board any interest, relationship or information which may be relevant to that assessment.

2.5.6.5 Where a conflict of interest is identified, the Board Member concerned shall not vote or engage in discussion on that issue.

2.5.6.6 Individual Board Members, aware of a real or potential conflict of interest of another Board Member, have a responsibility to bring this to the notice of the Board.

#### 2.5.7 **Covenant of Leadership**

The members of the Board agree to abide by the following covenant:

##### **OUR COVENANT OF LEADERSHIP**

##### ***Our Promises to God***

We promise to pray, alone and together, to thank God and to ask for God's help in our lives and in our work for our churches, and we promise to listen to God's answer for us.

***Our Promises to the Church Family***

We promise to demonstrate our leadership and commitment to our churches by our example.

We promise to support our pastors, ministry team and staff so that their efforts can be most productive.

We promise to try to discover what is best for our churches as a whole, ensuring that all are valued in spite of their fruitfulness or responsiveness.

***Our Promises to each other on the Assembly Board***

We promise to respect and care for each other.

We promise to treat our time on the Assembly Board as an opportunity to make an important gift to our churches.

We promise to maintain agreed confidentiality.

We promise to listen with an open, non-judgmental mind to the words and ideas of others in our churches and on the Assembly Board.

We promise to discuss, debate, and disagree openly in the Assembly Board meetings, expressing ourselves as clearly and honestly as possible, so that we are certain that the Assembly Board understands our point of view.

We promise to abide by the final decision of the Assembly Board whether it reflects our view or not except in respect of a matter which the Assembly Board has decided is a matter of conscience.