

Unity of Lehigh Valley Board Code of Ethics

Members of the board (including ex officio members of the board) shall at all times abide by and conform to the following code of conduct in their capacity as board members:

1. Each member of the board of trustees will abide in all respects by the Association of Unity Churches International Code of Ethics for Ministry, all other rules and regulations of the Association and the bylaws and policies of Unity of Lehigh Valley. Furthermore, each member of the board will at all times support the church in obeying all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
2. Members of the board will conduct the business affairs of the church in good faith and with honesty, integrity, due diligence, and reasonable competence.
3. Except as the board may otherwise require or as otherwise required by law, no board member shall share, copy, reproduce, transmit, divulge or otherwise disclose any confidential information related to the affairs of the church or its members and each member of the board will uphold the strict confidentiality of all meetings and other deliberations and communications of the board of directors.
4. Members of the board will exercise proper authority and good judgment in their dealings with staff, congregants, vendors and suppliers, and the general public and will respond to the needs of the church's members in a responsible, respectful, and professional manner.
5. No member of the board will use any information provided by the church or acquired as a consequence of the board member's service to the church in any manner other than in furtherance of his or her board duties. Further, no member of the board of directors will misuse church property or resources and will at all times keep the church's property secure and not allow any person not authorized by the board of directors to have or use such property.
6. Upon termination of service, a retiring board member will promptly return to the church all documents, electronic and hard files, reference materials, keys, and other property entrusted to the board member for the purpose of fulfilling his or her job responsibilities. Such return will not abrogate the retiring board member from his or her continuing obligations of confidentiality with respect to information acquired as a consequence of his or her tenure on the board of trustees.
7. The board dedicates itself to leading by example in serving the needs of the church and its members and also in representing the interests and ideals of the Unity movement.
8. The board of trustees must act at all times in the best interests of the church and not for personal or third-party gain or financial enrichment. When encountering potential conflicts of interest, board members will identify the conflict and, as required, remove themselves from all discussion and voting on the matter. Specifically, board members shall follow these guidelines:
 - Avoid placing (and avoid the appearance of placing) one's own self-interest or any third-party interest above that of the church; while the receipt of incidental personal or third-party benefit may necessarily flow from certain church activities, such benefit must be merely incidental to the primary benefit to the church and its purposes;
 - Do not abuse board membership by improperly using board membership or the church's staff, services, equipment, resources, or property for personal or third-party gain or pleasure; board members shall not represent to third parties that their authority as a board member extends any further than that which it actually extends;
 - Do not engage in any outside business, professional or other activities that would directly or indirectly materially adversely affect the church;
 - Do not engage in or facilitate any discriminatory or harassing behavior directed toward church staff, volunteers, members, officers, meeting attendees, vendors, contractors, or others in the context of activities relating to the church;
 - Do not solicit or accept gifts, gratuities, free trips, honoraria, personal property, or any other item of value from any person or entity as a direct or indirect inducement to provide special treatment to such donor with respect to matters pertaining to the church without fully disclosing such items to the board of trustees; and
 - Provide goods or services to the church as a paid vendor to the church only after full disclosure to, and advance approval by, the board, following a discussion of the merits of all vendors under consideration.