

RECONCILE

Alliance Bible Fellowship

Peace Advocate Code of Ethics

Peace Advocates serving in the RECONCILE ministry at Alliance Bible Fellowship shall conduct themselves in accordance with these standards.

1. Peace Advocates serve under the lordship of Jesus Christ and, therefore, shall be committed to living a life worthy of the calling they have received (Eph. 4:1).
2. Peace Advocates shall be committed to Christian unity principles and strive to live at peace with others (Eph. 4:3; Rom. 12:18).
3. Peace Advocates shall accept appointment in proceedings only when they have the necessary competence to serve the parties well. If during a proceeding, a Peace Advocate determines that they cannot conduct the proceedings competently, the Peace Advocate shall discuss that determination with the RECONCILE Director (“Director”) as soon as possible and take appropriate steps to address the situation, including but not limited to, withdrawing.
4. Peace Advocates shall only accept appointments when they have sufficient time to devote to the proceedings.
5. Peace Advocates shall serve impartially, treating all participants respectfully and fairly in keeping with the biblical principles that guide personal conduct and interaction with others.
6. Peace Advocates shall diligently provide the parties with a fair process as provided in the RECONCILE Coaching and Mediation Procedures.
7. A Peace Advocate’s relationship with the parties is one of trust and, therefore, they shall protect privacy as provided in Section 10 of the RECONCILE Coaching and Mediation Procedures and shall not, at any time, use confidential information obtained during service to gain a personal advantage or advantage for others, or to affect the interest of another adversely.
8. Peace Advocates shall not be swayed by public opinion, fear of condemnation, or self-interest.
9. Peace Advocates shall encourage parties to exhibit behaviors and apply standards of conduct that Jesus expects of those who bear His name.
10. Peace Advocates shall respect the relationships parties have with attorneys, counselors, and other professionals and may encourage such professionals to support the process.
11. Peace Advocates shall show deference to the jurisdiction of legitimate civil authorities and cooperate with them as required by law and consistent with Section 10 of the RECONCILE Coaching and Mediation Procedures unless there is a clear scriptural basis not to do so.
12. Peace Advocates shall be a witness to “the lost.” They may encourage parties and other participants to accept the Good News offered through Jesus Christ while recognizing that

the decision to follow Jesus is a personal decision for each person when led by the Holy Spirit.

13. Peace Advocates shall apply the following principles for resolving disputes and reconciling conflicts as they serve the parties.
 - a. Peace Advocates shall show the parties that their lives and decisions should conform to the concepts and standards of Scripture to achieve outcomes that edify those involved, strengthen the Christian community, and glorify God.
 - b. Peace Advocates shall point out how particular Scriptures apply to the parties' specific circumstances and the impact the Scriptures may have on helping the parties achieve resolution and reconciliation.
 - c. Peace Advocates shall encourage parties to make decisions, take actions, and modify behaviors pursuant to biblical instructions for leading a godly life.
 - d. Peace Advocates shall encourage – as applicable to a party's circumstances – repentance, confession, forgiveness, confrontation, reconciliation, and restoration.
 - e. Peace Advocates shall encourage and support only those decisions and actions that reflect sound biblical principles of faith and practice.
14. Peace Advocates shall respect and protect party self-determination.
 - a. Peace Advocates shall encourage the parties to come to voluntary, uncoerced decisions by making free and informed choices regarding process and outcome.
 - b. Peace Advocates may inform the parties of the importance of consulting other professionals to help them make informed choices.
15. Peace Advocates shall be committed to impartiality and transparency.
 - a. Peace Advocates shall decline service if they cannot serve impartially.
 - b. Peace Advocates shall impartially conduct all communications and meetings and avoid conduct and communications that give any appearance of partiality.
 - c. If a Peace Advocate cannot serve impartially, they shall withdraw.
 - d. Peace Advocates shall avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest during and after the proceedings.
 - e. Peace Advocate shall make a reasonable inquiry to determine whether there are any facts that a reasonable individual would consider likely to create a potential or actual conflict of interest.
 - f. Peace Advocates shall disclose, as soon as possible, all actual and potential conflicts of interest that are reasonably known and could reasonably be seen as raising a question about their impartiality. After disclosure, if all parties agree, a Peace Advocate may continue to serve unless the conflict of interest might reasonably be viewed as undermining the integrity of the RECONCILE process. This duty to disclose continues for as long as the Peace Advocate provides services.
16. Peace Advocates shall conduct mediation meetings in accordance with the RECONCILE Coaching and Mediation Procedures and the following guidelines.

- a. Peace Advocates shall conduct meetings in a manner that promotes biblical principles of resolution and reconciliation.
 - b. Peace Advocates should promote open and candid dialogue between and among all parties and other participants and shall not intentionally misrepresent any material fact or circumstance.
 - c. A Peace Advocate may recommend that parties consider resolving their dispute through mediation, arbitration, counseling, or other processes.
 - d. If a Peace Advocate is made aware of abuse or violence among the parties, they shall take appropriate steps, including, if necessary, postponing, withdrawing from, or terminating the case as provided in the RECONCILE Coaching and Mediation Procedures.
17. Peace Advocates serve couples in teams that include a man and a woman and, therefore, must guard against inappropriate personal relationships, conduct, and communications with each other or any party.
- a. Male and female Peace Advocates appointed to serve a couple as a team shall not meet or communicate with each other in person except in the presence of one or both of their spouses or the Director. This restriction shall not apply whenever the Peace Advocates are serving the couple at a joint meeting.
 - b. Male Peace Advocates shall not communicate privately or meet privately with a female party.
 - c. Female Peace Advocates shall not communicate privately or meet privately with a male party.