Presbytery of West Virginia

Conflict of Interest Policy

It is the policy of Presbytery of West Virginia that its members and those serving in official capacities maintain high standards of integrity, honesty, impartiality, and conduct.

Avoidance of conflicts of interest, whether real or apparent, by all persons is indispensable to the maintenance of these standards.

A. Definition

A conflict of interest is "a situation in which a person has a duty to more than one person or organization, but cannot do justice to the actual or potentially adverse interests of both parties." (from the *Concise Law Encyclopedia*) It may include, but not be limited to:

a. Participation in a decision in which the interests of the Presbytery intersect with one's personal interests.

b. Acceptance of gifts, gratuities, services or special favors from another party which provides or receives goods or services or which attempts to provide such goods or services to or from the Presbytery.

(Minor courtesies such as luncheons, dinners, or similar arrangements in connection with business discussions may be accepted.)

c. Acceptance of full-time or part-time employment with an entity for which a person is serving in an elected or appointed capacity during the term of that person's service.

1. At any meeting of the Presbytery, its council, or of a standing or special committee no person may speak about, advocate for, or vote on matters in which he or she may have a conflict of interest without first disclosing to the body the existence of the conflict. Ordinarily that person would recuse himself /herself from that portion of the meeting.

2. No person shall preside as moderator of Presbytery or its council or as chair of a committee during a time when he or she may have a conflict of interest concerning a matter to be discussed and voted upon.

3. All participants in the work of the Presbytery shall avoid even the appearance of conflict of interest. If a person discovers he/she may be in a conflict of interest or believes that another person may have a conflict of interest, he/she shall report this conflict or perception to the governing body, committee, or supervisor.

4. If there is uncertainty as to the existence of a conflict of interest, the body in question shall decide the matter.