

# CODE OF ETHICS

Adopted 10/27/04

1. We are dedicated to the students, faculty and staff of the Michigan State University.
  - A. We affirm Michigan State University's guarantee to students of the rights, privileges and freedoms of all citizens. In particular, we support the regulations and guidelines which emphasize fair treatment and respect for integrity, judgement, and contribution of the individual student, as presented in the MSU Student Handbook and the Personnel Handbook.
  - B. We affirm that any persuasive effort that restricts a student's religious freedom to choose is unethical.
  - C. We will be sensitive to the academic responsibilities of students in planning and promoting our student activities.
  - D. When promoting our ministry, we will clearly identify ourselves and our affiliation; we will be forthright in our goals in ministering.
2. We are dedicated to upholding The Michigan State University programs and policies:
  - A. We view ourselves as cooperative members of the University community and will act as a part of it.
  - B. When exercising our freedom to question or dispute the University program or policies we will do so in a peaceful and professional manner.
  - C. We will encourage our religious student organizations to know and follow procedures and policies in the MSU Student Handbook and the "Guidelines" for recognized student groups.
  - D. All advertising will clearly identify our sponsoring religious organization.
3. We are dedicated to respecting other campus ministries at Michigan State University.
  - A. We affirm the value of a collegial relationship between RAA members.
  - B. The RAA exists to improve communication between the various religious groups which minister to the University community. As members, we will demonstrate respect for our colleagues in RAA and will take initiative in (1) raising questions when appropriate and in an appropriate manner, and (2) resolving misunderstandings which may arise. The Executive Committee may, if deemed necessary, facilitate resolution of such misunderstandings or problems which may arise between members through appointment of a committee charged with such a purpose.
  - C. The RAA endeavors to speak to the University community on matters regarding religion, human values, morality and individual rights. In such circumstances as an anticipated action of a member may compromise the integrity, image or efficacy of the Association by reason of that member's affiliation with the RAA, that member is responsible for clarifying the anticipated action with the Executive Committee and/or with the RAA.
  - D. We will assume the sincerity and good will of RAA members. In case of reported misunderstandings, we will assume proper motives and investigate with such expectations. We will grant one another the benefit of the doubt.

- E. We will seek to create dialogue with other RAA members in order to increase understanding and mutual support of our common mission to serve the University community.
- F. We will seek to represent the beliefs of other faiths accurately, but never in such a manner as to question the integrity of another faith or of a colleague in RAA.
- G. Overall, we will seek cooperation whenever possible. We shall respect the agenda of each campus ministry. And we will treat one another as we would like to be treated.

RAA Covenant  
*Proposed March 2004*

The Religious Advisor's Association (RAA) is an association of professional campus ministers serving the Michigan State University who covenant to:

Support and enrich each other's professional commitment and competency in campus ministry

Work together in an atmosphere of collegiality, inclusiveness, and tolerance. While maintaining our individual faith and doctrinal beliefs, as a group we welcome diversity. All debate and dialogue will be in the context of an eagerness to learn, rather than a desire to win

Improve communications among members and the various religious groups which minister to the University community

Speak to the University community on matters of religion, human values, morality, and individual and community rights.

Foster healthful religious practices in the University community.

Serve as a resource to individuals and groups within the University.

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Signature