Sample Elders’ Code of Conduct

*Thank you to Nelson Baptist Church for sharing this code of conduct. Please adapt to suit context.*

This Code of Conduct promotes an ethical standard designed to bring glory to God through the work and lives of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church’s Eldership. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church Elders commit to uphold the following responsibilities:

# Responsibility to God:

Knowing that Jesus Christ is the living head of the church, I choose to conduct myself in a manner that brings glory to Him. To the best of my ability I will seek to:

* Be a responsible servant of God.
* Exercise faithful stewardship in my devotional life through the use of spiritual disciplines, the gifts of the Spirit and acts of service.
* Exercise faithful stewardship of financial, physical and intellectual resources.
* Accept accountability for all my actions and avoid situations that could reflect negatively on the name of Jesus Christ, and the missional reputation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.
* Maintain sexual purity.
* Care well for my family, ensuring my duties as an elder do not actively cause harm to those closest to me.

# Responsibility to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Baptist congregation

* I will lead with justice and mercy, seeking to appropriately balance strength and gentleness in all situations. To the best of my ability I will seek to:
* Provide sound and clear leadership, support and oversight in my duties as an Elder.
* Be fair and consistent in my dealings with leaders and congregants, promoting and modelling our congregational values to the best of my ability.
* Be trustworthy in all areas of confidentiality, except those things I am legally bound to disclose. I will not betray the trust of any persons associated with our congregation by disclosing personal information about that person to others without that person’s knowledge and consent - except when withholding this information would cause significant harm to individuals or our congregation.
* Be committed to prompt reconciliation of interpersonal conflicts. I recognize that I must have personal courage, exercised with appropriate tact in facing opposition. I will encourage members of our congregation to resolve conflicts and reconcile wherever possible.
* Honour and respect other cultures, genders and races.

# Responsibility to the wider New Zealand Baptist Family of Churches:

To the best of my ability, as an elder of a Baptist church in New Zealand I will seek to:

* Understand and enact Baptist ways of leading a faith community, upholding the Baptist principles of:
* The authority of scripture
* The priesthood of all believers
* Freedom of conscience
* Believer’s baptism and membership
* Soul liberty
* Freedom of the local congregation to recognize God’s will
* Encourage the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Baptist congregation to support Baptist mission regionally, nationally and globally.
* Honour our wider Baptist family, and be responsible and respectful in discussions about other Baptist congregations, leaders, and mission organisations.
* Seek help from, and offer help to, the wider Baptist family as able or appropriate.

# Responsibility to the greater body of Christ

* Elders and attendees of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church are a part of the greater Christian community. To the best of my ability I will seek to:
* Avoid ‘stealing’ members out of other churches.
* Seek to work in harmony with other Christian leaders and programs to strengthen the body of Christ and advance the kingdom of God.
* Uphold the theology and doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Baptist Church and the Baptist Union of New Zealand without slandering Christians who hold other views.

# Responsibility to the local community

The local church is an integral part of the society in which it resides. An active, appropriate role in the community serves as a Christian example of love and is a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. To the best of my ability I will seek to:

* Be a responsible member of the wider \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ community.
* Encourage the involvement of our congregation in appropriate community events.
* Comply with local and government regulations and laws as long as they do not conflict with the teachings of Jesus.
* Take care not to allow partisan political issues to create polarisation within our congregation, or to be a focus in sermons, Bible studies, or other church meetings.

I have read this Elders’ Charter and Code of Conduct and I am committed to upholding then guidelines and principles within.

Name: Signature: Date:

Witnessed by:

[Note: The Senior Pastor(s) are part of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church Eldership. For our Senior Pastor(s), this Elders’ Code of Conduct does not supersede, but sits alongside the New Zealand Baptist Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Baptist Leaders.]