

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions Code of Ethics for Directors of Worship/Liturgy

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) is dedicated to promoting the liturgy as the heart of Christian life. As a pastoral, “locally-based,” and professional organization, the FDLC shall be committed to assist the Catholic Church in the United States of America—its hierarchy, individual bishops, and local churches—in their responsibilities of providing positive leadership in liturgical catechesis, formation, and celebration.

Committed to the same goals, directors of liturgy and directors of worship work as professionals within parishes, dioceses, universities, high schools, hospitals, and other institutional settings.

All qualified individuals shall be eligible for membership and participation in the FDLC. Members shall strive to promote good working relationship within the organization and within their employing institutions. Members also strive to respect the employment of colleagues in other parishes. Members shall respect the legal rights of others.

Ministry

- FDLC members, as professional liturgists, are dedicated to liturgy in the life of the parish, to developing the worship life of the parish, and to contributing to the liturgical catechesis of the parish community.
- Members are competent and trained in their craft and seek to continue growing through lifelong professional learning.
- Members have a strong knowledge of the liturgical documents, music guidelines, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, and the liturgical guidelines of the local Church ([arch]diocese and parish). They seek to follow the documents when influencing the liturgical practices of the parish.
- Members maintain appropriate relationships with colleagues and parishioners of all ages as specified in diocesan guidelines.
- Members shall be aware and abide by the Safe Environment Guidelines of their respective (arch)diocese, including passing successful background checks.
- Members are accountable to the bishop, pastor, or other duly-appointed representative.

Membership

- FDLC members shall not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, age, religious affiliation, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or medical condition.
- Members are entitled to enjoy the privileges and are expected to accept the responsibilities of membership in the FDLC. They shall be considered equally for participation in FDLC activities and abide by the Code of Ethics and its Discipline.

- Any FDLC recommendations for prospective employment shall be based solely upon professional competence and availability.

Collaboration

- Members strive to work collaboratively with the pastor, administrator, and other ministers on the parish staff—both professional paid ministers and volunteers.
- Members respect the dignity of all persons and cultures. Members respect the cultures present within the parish and strive to include all aspects of the parish within the liturgical celebrations of the community.
- Members address differences of opinion within this organization through appropriate channels. Members shall address differences of opinion with employing institutions through appropriate channels, as provided by their individual employment agreements or diocesan procedures.
- Members observe both the spirit and the letter of this Code of Ethics in their dealings with the FDLC, with individual members, with others under their supervision, colleagues, employing institutions, and the communities they serve.

Respect and Legal Rights

- Members do not apply for a position, appear to be soliciting a position, engage in discussion about possible employment, or attempt to place a student or colleague in a position until the incumbent has resigned or has been notified of termination by the institution. It is the responsibility of the member to determine whether the incumbent has been notified.
- Members do not undermine or attempt to dislocate an incumbent.
- A member may accept a liturgical service only when such an engagement has been approved by the bishop or pastor. It is the responsibility of the member to determine whether approval has been granted.
- Members respect the property right of composers, authors, and publishers by being aware of and complying with copyright law and attendant procedures regarding reproduction and performing rights.
- Members respect the employment rights of others by being aware of and complying with all laws and procedures pertaining to immigration and work permits.
- Members follow diocesan policies and appropriate legal statutes to protect the rights of individuals from abuse.

I have read and understand the above code of ethics and commit to uphold this code in my ministry.

Signature

Date

Grateful appreciation to the following organizations, whose codes of ethics were used to help establish this code: National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Directors of Music Ministries Division; National Association for Lay Ministry; National Conference for Catechetical Leadership; National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.