



## CODE OF ETHICS FOR ZAQEN/MOREHS/MORAHS

*The wisdom and teaching of Scripture is the basis for formulating this code of ethics; and perhaps the single scripture which best describes how we should live to please Yahuah is Micah 6:8, which translation renders: “But He’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what Yahuah is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously – take Yahuah seriously.”*

*However, there is often a disparity in what people judge to be “fair and just” in dealing with others. Likewise the manner in which we “take Yah seriously” and not take ourselves “too seriously” needs clarification. The code of ethics addresses this by declaring more specifically how we should behave in relation to Yah, others and ourselves.*

*Of course it is impossible to legislate or proscribe the correct course of action for a Zaqen/Moreh/Morah in every situation where a moral/ethical decision must be made, and any attempt to provide a comprehensive list of required responses in various situations will invariably be deficient. Nevertheless, having an accepted set of guidelines should aid a pastor to make the right decision when faced with an ethical choice.*

*A further benefit of a Moreh’s code of ethics is that it constitutes an agreed standard of behavior whereby a Moreh’s character may be assessed. Failure to behave in an acceptable manner may indicate a lack of wisdom or a wayward attitude, and a continuance in the same behavior will reveal or result in a character flaw.*

*Attitude is the crucial factor, the foundation for making the correct decision when confronted with an ethical dilemma. A right attitude should lead to correct behavior, and behavior over an extended period defines character. Therefore this code of ethics firstly identifies the key attitudes which should prevail in a Moreh’s life. Zaqen/Morehs/Morahs can attempt to evaluate themselves against the listed attitudes, but their peers can also make an assessment based on observed behavior and personal interaction.*

*Basically, the attitudes which every mature set-apart believer should have are those which HaMashiach displayed, and so it is reasonable to expect that such attitudes should be readily observable in Zaqen/Morehs/Morahs and Assembly leaders.*

*We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. (2 Corinthians 6:3)*

**The following sections attempt to cover, either specifically or by association, the majority of ministry situations which may require an ethical choice. However, in the event of a scenario where the proper course of action is unclear, it is suggested that Zaqen/Morehs/Morahs should seek first to align their mind-set with the following attitudes. Their ensuing behavior is then likely to be correct.**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YAH**

Our foremost responsibility is to love Yah. In the context of ethical behavior, it has been said “Love Yah and do as you please,” with the reasoning that if our love for Yah is genuine we will automatically do

what is right. However it is all too easy to claim to love Yah, while neglecting to do those things which substantiate our confession. Our love for Yah must be tangible, and the Bible clearly reveals what we should do in order to love Yah and please Him. As we relate to Yah in the way He requires, our love for Yah will be both validated and strengthened, and we can more readily choose to act ethically in every situation.

**To fulfil my responsibility of loving Yah, I will:**

- I. Worship Him by presenting my total being to Him (Romans 12:1)**
- II. Develop a regular devotional life by:**
  - A. Expressing adoration, praise and thankfulness to Him and committing to frequent corporate worship.
  - B. Deepening my fellowship with Him through prayer, taking time to listen to His voice as well as expressing my failures, concerns and petitions.
  - C. Reading and studying the Scriptures, applying its revealed truth to my life.
  - D. Meditating on key Scripture verses and passages to allow Yah's Ruach to maximize their effectiveness.
- III. Act in obedience to Yah's commandments, laws and statutes and seek to do His revealed will.**
  - A. Have the goal of a lifestyle which is fully pleasing and glorifying to Yah.
- IV. Recognize that serving Yah and working in cooperation with His Spirit to extend His Kingdom is a privilege that demands my best efforts.**
- V. Accept that I can take no credit for my talents and abilities – they are given by Yah – and diligently seek to develop them to their fullest measure to bless the Body of Believers.**
- VI. Embrace the principle of giving, acknowledging Yah's ownership of all that I have by giving a portion of my income.**
- VII. Cultivate a generous disposition, realizing that any material blessings I enjoy are to be shared with others.**

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS**

Our responsibility to love others is fulfilled as we serve them, seeking to put their interests and welfare above our own, and acting with kindness and compassion as opportunity or need dictates. The concept is simple, but the execution is fraught with difficulties. Having clearly defined guidelines for specific circumstances, especially when different courses of action might seem plausible and even appealing, is helpful. Hence the following scenarios are included, covering situations as diverse as family relationships and GAI's responsibilities.

As before, the behavior expected of Zagen/Morehs/Morahs is expressed in the form of personal commitments.

## **FAMILY**

**With regard to my family, I will:**

- I. Give each family member the time, consideration and support they need.**
- II. Protect my spouse from the excessive demands or expectations which can occur in awakening, while releasing her/him to fulfil the ministry roles which they feel called and gifted to do.**
- III. [Husbands] Love my wife sacrificially, as exemplified by Yahusha in His love for the Assembly.**
- IV. [Wives] Submit to my husband, as exemplified by Yahusha in His submission to His Father.**

- V. Seek to ensure that my children receive the nurture and encouragement they deserve, and prayerfully commit them to Yah, ongoing growth, and ministry service.
- VI. Help my children to deal with the undue expectations and unfair criticisms that sometimes befall pastors' children.
- VII. Maintain a positive attitude to my pastoral responsibilities and the congregation in front of my children, encouraging in them a sense of pride and respect for the ministry.
- VIII. Recognize that married couples and families will expect my family to model how a solid Set-Apart family should operate and seek to provide them with a good example.
- IX. Allow others to see that my family is not exempt from the worries, problems and pressures common to most families, and inspire them by the righteous way we handle difficult situations.
- X. Endeavour, with the support of my spouse, to ensure that the financial needs and obligations of my family are met in a responsible fashion.
- XI. Plan to have an annual family holiday in which the whole family can be strengthened and refreshed.
- XII. Program regular time slots for relaxation and relational intimacy with my spouse, and try to have an extended time with each child for relational building several times a year.

#### **LOCAL ASSEMBLY**

With regard to my local assembly, I, a Lead Moreh will:

##### General

- I. Fulfil my designated duties and responsibilities to the best of my ability.
- II. Seek to be an example of righteous behavior, displaying love, faith and integrity in a way which will inspire and assist others to follow.
- III. Act impartially in all my dealings, refusing to allow special friendships or influential mishpacha to prevent me giving fair treatment to every person.
- IV. Avoid starting or passing on gossip, and diligently attempt to stop others from engaging in this destructive behavior.
- V. Maintain strict confidentiality in any counselling setting, unless legally obligated to disclose certain facts or unless failure to pass on information would endanger the safety of others.
- VI. Keep confidential pastoral records, particularly in regard to counselling appointments and other sensitive matters.
- VII. Open my home to others, recognizing that hospitality is a wonderful way to build mishpacha and trust.
- VIII. Attempt to address the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the assembly, utilizing the resources of my ministry team and/or appropriate assembly mishpachah to affect spiritual care.
- IX. Limit the number of speaking invitations I accept from other assemblies/groups, since my primary responsibility is to my own assemblies.
- X. Not hold membership in any secret society, as this would adversely affect the trust of those in my assembly and the awakening.
- XI. Not abuse the power of my position for personal gain or to exercise unhealthy control over vulnerable individuals.
- XII. Avail myself of appropriate literature, courses and conferences which will help me to better fulfil my responsibilities as a Lead Moreh and grow as a Set-Apart Leader.

- XIII. Admit to my professional limitations, arranging referrals and/or seeking help from other Morehs, Zaqens, counsellors, etc. in situations where I am not competent to provide the needed help for anyone in my assembly.**

**Relational issues**

- I. Be circumspect in all my relationships, particularly with the opposite sex, recognizing the danger of entrapment in co-dependent and overly-close relationships and try to avoid even the appearance of wrong doing.**
- II. Not minister to a person of the opposite sex, unless in the presence of one or more responsible people or in a setting that can be seen and is interruptible by a responsible person.**
- III. Be wise when ministering to children, recognizing their special vulnerabilities and my duty of care obligations.**
- IV. Be cautious when making a ministry home visit to a person of the opposite sex, and avoid the possibility of a compromising situation developing by having my spouse or a trusted colleague accompany me.**
- V. Endeavour not to provide unaccompanied transport for a person of the opposite sex, or a child, outside of family relations.**
- VI. Seek to work harmoniously with my Zaqen Council or the Local Eldership Team, respecting their G role. When I exercise the position of Lead Moreh I will provide wise and courageous leadership and also make myself accountable to the National and Local Leadership Team. I will submit myself to correction and**
- VII. even dismissal in the event of a major moral failure or an irreparable leadership crisis; and be open to counsel and direction from the Zaqen Council**
- VIII. Show loyalty and support for my Lead Moreh, if I do not myself hold that position, and foster supportive and respectful relationships with other team members.**
- IX. Be approachable and open to correction and instruction from my Lead Moreh, fellow Morehs and others who have genuine and righteous interest in my well-being.**

**Platform matters**

- I. Devote sufficient time for prayer, study and message preparation to enable me to teach Torah-based, Scripturally-sound messages in a way that will lead people to the Awakening and build their spiritual lives.**
- II. Not use the platform to humiliate anyone, denigrate other Morehs or communities, or make political statements in a way which could polarize and harm the assembly.**
- III. Avoid condemnatory teaching; rather seek to allow the convicting work of the Ruach to have full expression.**
- IV. Not use the platform for self- aggrandizement, but rather focus attention on Yahuah and the work of Yahusha.**
- V. Try to eliminate any annoying or offensive mannerisms which could distract listeners from hearing the message that is being given**
- VI. Give opportunity, whenever practical, for potential supporting Morehs and Morahs to develop in their teaching gift.**
- VII. Exercise care in inviting guests to teach, making sure they are properly briefed and willing to abide by the guidelines given them, as the welfare of my assembly is at stake.**
- VIII. Be generous in the hospitality and payment offered to guest teachers.**

## **Financial considerations**

- I. Abstain from personally handling assembly finances, in so far as this is possible, by appointing qualified personnel to deal with the various financial transactions and record keeping required.
- II. Ensure that adequate safeguards and procedures are in place to protect and efficiently administer all the funds given to the local assembly.
- III. Not use any assembly funds for personal use or seek to borrow money from the assembly.
- IV. Not use my position in the assembly to gain financial favor from those in my assembly.
- V. Not get involved in any personal money-making schemes which could adversely affect my reputation or my set-apart work.
- VI. Be transparent with my local assembly leadership when receiving love offerings and gifts, and abide by local assembly guidelines specifying how such monies/gifts should be handled.
- VII. Offer to perform Hebraic weddings and funerals for mischpacha of my assembly
- VIII. Not embark on any major fundraising venture without the full support of the Local Assembly Leadership/Eldership

## **COMMUNITY**

With regard to my community, I will:

- I. Obey the laws of the land, unless by so doing I am disobeying the Commandments, Laws, and Statues of Yahuah.
- II. Diligently pay my taxes and fulfil the normal obligations expected of all citizens while in the land of our oppressor.
- III. Attempt to live a life that is above reproach, giving attention to such matters as paying bills on time, being punctual for appointments, displaying courtesy and good manners towards others, and being especially careful to relate to the opposite sex in a manner which is glorifying to Yah.
- IV. Act responsibly in the public arena, knowing that my status as a Moreh/Morah will draw particular attention which will either help or hinder this work.
- V. Recognize that my primary responsibilities are to my assembly and family and ensure my level of involvement in civic affairs and social action is not to the detriment of these.
- VI. Look for opportunities to evangelize, mindful of the fact that the immediate community is a primary mission field.
- VII. Seek to develop good relations with civic and local government leaders, but not at the expense of compromising my set-apart calling.
- VIII. Refuse to publicly align myself so closely with a particular political party as a Hebrew believer.
- IX. Exercise wisdom when making public statements on community issues, and ensure such pronouncements are in line with scriptural principles.

## **PEERS**

With regard to my peers (fellow Morehs/Morahs), I will:

- I. Act in a spirit of cooperation rather than competition, recognizing my peers as fellow-workers in Yah's Kingdom.
- II. Never publicly criticize or belittle a fellow Moreh/Morah. Instead attempt to privately correct and encourage them.
- III. Endeavour to maintain good relationships with other Morehs, applying the principles outlined in Matthew chapter 18 to resolve any relational difficulties.
- IV. Draw on the expertise and guidance of my peers when I am faced with acute problems or critical decisions, and acknowledge their help at the appropriate time.

- V. Seek to bless other Morehs/Morahs by whatever available means, being generous with finances, resources and the sharing of wisdom and experience.
- VI. Avoid plagiarizing another's work, give due credit and recognition for any resources that I use, and abide by copyright regulations.
- VII. Not entice mishpacha of another assembly to join mine; but if I am aware of set-apart believers moving from other assemblies to mine, I will contact their previous Lead Moreh to apprise them of the move.
- VIII. Give guidance regarding a new assembly for any of my local assembly mishpacha who need to move, making contact with a Moreh in their new assembly and writing a letter of transfer if required.
- IX. Refuse to speak critically of any leader when they move on to another assembly or leave the Great Awakening International.

### **GREAT AWAKENING INTERNATIONAL**

With regard to my covering, Great Awakening International, I will:

- I. Seek to uphold and live by the core values of the Great Awakening International.
- II. Be loyal to it for as long as I remain within this fellowship, acknowledging both the privileges and responsibilities incumbent on my credential.
- III. Encourage loyalty and respect for Great Awakening International amongst my fellow Morehs/Morahs.
- IV. Give my own local assembly a sense of identity and pride within Great Awakening International, making them aware of its history, distinctive emphases and current spiritual directions and strategies.
- V. Give regularly to Great Awakening International so that it can function effectively.
- VI. Make attendance at Regional and National Feast Day meetings and conferences a priority, and where exceptional circumstances prevent my participation I will support it's endeavors.
- VII. Give due respect to the appointed leaders in Great Awakening, praying for them and submitting myself to their leadership.
- VIII. Accept that I may not always agree with the policies or approach of the appointed leaders, yet disallow myself to react in a way which would undermine their authority or cause personal offence.
- IX. Choose to live with a spirit of interdependence, declining any independent course of action which would detract from the welfare of Great Awakening International as a whole.
- X. Utilize the resources that Great Awakening International provides to improve my ministry effectiveness, as well as offering my time and abilities to benefit the denomination when it is feasible to do so.
- XI. Be tolerant of other Morehs/Morahs whose views and approach to ministry differ from mine, knowing that diversity in thought and action is healthy so long as the essentials of doctrine and conduct are not compromised.
- XII. Support my fellow-Moreh/Morah through encouragement and material help when practical; and, in the event that I become aware of a serious breach of ethics or moral failure, I will help the Moreh by bringing their behavior to the attention of the respective state or national leaders to initiate correction and restoration.
- XIII. Participate in Great Awakening's mission initiatives, through prayerful and financial support and by undertaking mission trips as appropriate, while being free to engage in other mission opportunities as Yah guides.

- XIV. Resign my credential if I find I no longer hold to the vision, values and beliefs of Great Awakening International; and in so doing I will also relinquish my participation, any influence or control over any ministry in Great Awakening International.

#### **OTHER HEBREW COMMUNITIES**

With regard to other Hebrew Communities, I will:

- I. Seek to have cordial relationships with Morehs in other Awakened and Hebrew Root communities, and be willing to cooperate in joint activities that will advance Yah's Kingdom.
- II. Participate in local conferences, meetings, if invited to do so.
- III. Pray for and seek to bless non-GAI assemblies and leaders, irrespective of affiliation, if they are actively fulfilling the way of Torah and promoting the testimony of Yahusha HaMashiach.
- IV. Maintain a humble attitude towards the leaders and Morehs in other set-apart communities, recognizing that my own denomination is not better than every other.
- V. Respect the differences in governmental structures, beliefs and styles of worship in other set-apart communities, refusing to be critical of them unless they are clearly in contradiction of the tenets of Torah and the Scripture.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES TO SELF**

Yah instructs us to "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Implicit in this command is the assumption that we do love ourselves, and it is apparent that our capacity to love others is limited if we have a poor self image. Furthermore, our ability to serve others is diminished if we do not take due care of our health – spiritual, emotional and physical.

In recognition of these facts, I will:

- I. Endeavour to live a life of integrity, being true to the commitments I make to myself as well as other people.
- II. Regularly practice spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, fasting, meditation, etc, which will help strengthen my spiritual life.
- III. Seek to grow intellectually through wise reading and appropriate study.
- IV. Regulate my social and work-related contacts, spending time with those who will add to my emotional bank account and contribute to my learning, whilst avoiding excessive exposure to angry/critical/negative people who will sap my emotional energy.
- V. Attempt to exercise self-control in every area of my life, maintaining sexual purity, handling finances responsibly and avoiding behavioral extremes which would weaken my witness.
- VI. Avail myself of teachings and courses which will develop my skills and competencies.
- VII. Manage my time well, balancing the various obligations and demands of assembly, family and others with the need for self-care to guard against health problems.
- VIII. Take care of my body through regular exercise, sensible eating habits, adequate sleep and times of relaxation so that I have the energy to fulfil my daily responsibilities and the capacity to serve Yah effectively over a prolonged period.
- IX. Schedule one day per week for rest from the pressures of work and ministry, as advocated by Yah, and plan to take an annual vacation for recreation and refreshing.
- X. Not abuse alcohol or other drugs which will be harmful to my health.
- XI. Avoid pornography, gambling and other activities which are demeaning or destructive to my well-being
- XII. Be accountable for my use of the internet and social media.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of a Torah-Observant life (Philippians 1:27)  
All who are called by Yahuah to be a Zagen/Moreh/Morah solemnly commit to a life of joyful obedience and selfless service in order to glorify Yahuah and enrich his people. Therefore, a minister will:

### **Pursue Integrity**

*I know, my Elohim, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. (1 Chronicles 29:17)*

- in personal character.

Exalt Yahuah, not self. Be honest, not exaggerating or overpromising; peace-loving, not contentious; patient, not volatile; diligent, not slothful. Avoid and, when necessary, report conflicts of interest and seek counsel.

- in personal care.

Care for the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical dimensions of your person, for "your bodies are temples of the Ruach HaQodesh" (1 Corinthians 6:19).

- in teaching.

Interpret the Bible accurately through the lens of Torah and apply it discerningly: "In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned" (Titus 2:7-8). Speak the truth in love. Give due credit when using the words or ideas of others.

### **Be Trustworthy**

*It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2)*

- in leadership.

Model the trustworthiness of Yahuah in leadership to encourage and develop trustworthiness in others. Use power and influence prudently and humbly. Foster loyalty. Demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of the entire assembly. Keep promises. Respond sensitively and appropriately to ministry requests and needs: "*Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much*" (Luke 16:10).

- with information.

Guard confidences carefully. Inform a person in advance, if possible, when an admission is about to be made that might legally require the disclosure of that information. Communicate truthfully and discreetly when asked about individuals with destructive or sinful behavior patterns. Tell the truth, or remain discreetly silent: "*A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret*" (Proverbs 11:13).

- with resources.

Be honest and prudent in regard to personal and ministry resources. Refuse gifts that could compromise ministry.

Ensure that all designated gifts are used for their intended purpose: "*If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?*" (Luke 16:11).



## **Seek Purity**

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)*

- in maintaining sexual purity.

Avoid sinful sexual behavior and inappropriate involvement. Resist temptation: "Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality" (Ephesians 5:3a).

- in spiritual formation.

Earnestly seek the help of the Holy Spirit for guidance and spiritual growth. Be faithful to maintain a heart of devotion to Yahuah. Be consistent and intentional in prayer and scriptural study: "*Take captive every thought to make it obedient to HaMashiach*" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

- in doctrine.

Study the Scriptures regularly and carefully to understand its message, and embrace biblical doctrine. In forming doctrine, consider biblical teaching authoritative over all other sources.

- in professional practice.

Identify a Zaqen/counselor who can provide personal counseling and advice when needed. Develop an awareness of personal needs and vulnerabilities. Avoid taking advantage of the vulnerabilities of others through exploitation or manipulation. Address the misconduct of another Moreh/Morah directly or, if necessary, through appropriate persons to whom that member of the clergy may be accountable.

## **Embrace Accountability**

*Be shepherds of Yah's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as Yah wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2-3)*

- in finances.

Promote accepted accounting practices and regular audits. Ensure that assembly funds are used for their intended ministry purposes.

- in ministry responsibilities.

Ensure clarity in authority structures, decision-making procedures, position descriptions, and grievance policies. Model accountability at the highest levels.

- in the body of Great Awakening International.

Ensure compliance with GAI's standards and expectations, including regular reports.

## **Facilitate Fairness**

*Believers in our glorious Master Yahusha HaMashiach must not show favoritism... Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? (James 2:1-4)*

- with your leaders.

Follow approved Local Assembly and Great Awakening International's practices in leadership selection processes. Advocate for equitable pay and benefits for leadership if applicable. Provide regular staff team building, affirmation, training, evaluation, and feedback. Be honest with your leadership regarding areas to celebrate as well as those needing improvement.

- with local mishpacha.

Ensure appropriate access to leadership by mishpacha. Preach and teach to meet the needs of the entire assembly.

Assume responsibility for assembly health. When asked for help beyond personal competence, refer others to those with requisite expertise.

- with the community.

Build Yah's Kingdom in cooperation, not competition, with other Hebrew Communities. Provide ministry to the public as possible.

- with a prior assembly.

Do not recruit mishpacha from a previous assemblies without having a conversation with their Lead Moreh. Avoid interfering in the ministry of a previous assembly.

I believe I have been called by Yah and equipped to be a Moreh/Zaqen/Morah in the Truth and a spiritual leader of His people.

I acknowledge that Yah has placed me in the family of Great Awakening to develop and express the ministry call that He has for my life.

I accept the Vision and Values that we in Great Awakening International regard as the reason why Yah has called us into existence and commit myself to gather, nurture, serve and release Yah's people within the purposes of our Great Awakening Mishpacha.

I will exercise my duties responsibly, be accountable to my spiritual family and submit to the wise checks and balances of my GAI peers and overseers.

I accept the GAI's code of ethics and will endeavor to outwork these principles in my life and ministry. As a Moreh & Morah of the Great Awakening International, I commit to abide by the standards set forth in the Great Awakening International Code of Ethics for Zaqens/Morehs/Morahs.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_