

2022/03

Enabling Motion Regarding Principles of the Church of God (Seventh Day)

WHEREAS The Ministerial Council in its Retreat in October 2017 voted to accept the Modesty Guidelines that set forth adjusted principles to guide members of the Conference

AND WHEREAS The Ministerial Council has facilitated a series of sensitisation about these said guidelines and the reasons they are being set forth in each Zone in the Conference

AND WHEREAS this specially convened meeting of the Conference provides another opportunity for members to benefit together from the studies and rationale for these modesty guidelines

BE IT RESOLVED that the attached Modesty Guidelines set forth by the Ministerial Council be implemented by the Conference as the guiding principles relating to Conference members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these principles take effect immediately.

Moved by Philroy Houslin

Seconded by Claud Brown.

**Principles of
The Church of God
(Seventh Day)**

FOR IMPLEMENTATION

GUIDELINES FOR MODESTY

The Church has always had the responsibility to teach sound doctrine and provide guidelines for Christian conduct. These guidelines may have to take into account different contexts including societal, political, cultural and other circumstances that could have negative or damaging effects. This means that the guidelines may vary as conditions necessitate and may not or need not have a direct Scriptural reference.

The Leadership of the Conference has given due consideration to the matter of Modesty as an essential element of Christian behaviour and have adopted the following for implementation:

GENERAL PILLARS OF MODESTY

The believers' mode of dress should be in keeping with the word of God, modest and decent in all respects. In considering our mode of dress, the overarching objectives must be deemed to:

- 1. Give honour to the Lord:** As in every other sphere of life, our adornment should be done in deference to His will and should be aimed at bringing glory to His name. The consideration will help us shun fashions that are sensuous and are such that they draw undue attention to the individual.
- 2. Demonstrate due regard and consideration for others:** Insofar as this principle is concerned it will help us dress in such a manner so as not to be offensive to those around us. We will therefore be attired in a manner that meets the accepted norms of decency and will not become a source of distraction or temptation for others including members of the opposite sex. We will also seek to avoid extravagant displays of wealth.
- 3. Present the face of a credible witness:** How we adorn ourselves will be in concord with the work of grace in our lives to which we bear

testimony. If our external presentation is at variance with our witness or effectiveness will be undermined.

- 4. Show respect for self:** We believe that healthy regard for self and the dignity of the person will be reflected in adornment that is appropriate, decent and well ordered.
- 5. Adherence to the norms of the organization/Church:** In abiding by those standards of dress that are accepted by the Church at any given time, members will demonstrate a true commitment to modesty, mutual submissiveness and the promotion of a sense of harmony in the body.

DRESS CODE FOR WOMEN

1. Miniskirts and shorts should not be worn in public.
2. Splits in dresses and skirts should not be above the knees exposing the thighs.
3. Blouses that expose areas such as the armpit, stomach, back and cleavage of the breasts should be avoided.
4. Tight clothing should be avoided, (blouse, skirts etc.)
5. Pants, loose and conservative in style may be worn for purposes of work and social occasions.
6. Appropriate head covering (hats, mantillas) should be worn in worship services and times of prayer.
7. Bleaching of the skin, piercings and tattooing should be avoided.

COSMETICS

1. Make-up, if used should be conservatively or moderately applied (loud colours should be avoided)
2. Nails should be clean, well-groomed and may be polished in a natural or subtle (sober) colour.

DRESS CODE FOR MEN

1. Processing of the hair such as jerry curls, plaiting, bleaching and cornrow should be avoided.
2. Elaborate hairstyles including markings, carving or styles reflecting worldly fashion should be avoided.
3. Tight clothing (pants, shirts, shorts) should be avoided.
4. Pants should be worn at the waist with a proper belt and not on or below the buttocks.
5. Brothers should avoid going on the street without wearing a shirt.
6. Bleaching of the skin, piercings and tattooing should be avoided.

JEWELLERY (MALE AND FEMALE)

1. Jewellery may be worn in moderation.
2. Anklets, nose rings, toes rings and other piercings for rings are not permitted.
3. Earrings (conservative) may be worn by sisters only.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Members of the Conference are required to comply with these as part of an overall code of conduct. Members who deliberately show disregard for these guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action following established procedures in the churches. Disciplinary action will be taken with a view to encourage compliance, facilitate rehabilitation and not for the sake of punishment.