

Miami Valley Women's Center

Moral Conduct Policy

This document describes the expectations for moral conduct for the employees and volunteers of the Miami Valley Women's Center (MVWC). The expectations pertain to all persons currently employed by or volunteering at the MVWC, and may be useful to inform those considering future employment with the MVWC of what is expected of them.

POLICY

The Miami Valley Women's Center seeks to be an organization that bases its values, beliefs, policies, and actions on the whole truth of Scripture. Therefore, all staff and volunteers understand that they are representatives of the MVWC, and more importantly, representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, the organization believes that how employees and volunteers conduct themselves, both at work, and away from the work environment, is relevant to their continued ministry with the MVWC. The Miami Valley Women's Center exists as a fellowship of Christians across a wide variety of denominations and church traditions whose staff members and volunteers sign a common Statement of Faith. While the Miami Valley Women's Center offers help to people in need, regardless of their religious beliefs, employees cannot separate who they are from what they do, and seek to work in a manner that draws people to Christ. Words clarify the meaning of our deeds, deeds verify the integrity of our words about Jesus Christ, and signs are the acts of God in the midst of what we do and say.

Through all of life, in word and deed, Miami Valley Women's Center staff and volunteers must be committed to glorifying God and witnessing to His love in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. We seek to value and honor our staff and volunteers through abiding by biblically-sound standards that bring honor to God and one another. We desire to model behavior that is consistent with our Christian commitment and witness, calling others to a life-changing commitment in the name of Christ.

It is impossible for the Miami Valley Women's Center to identify every form of behavior that we understand the Bible defines as acceptable or unacceptable to our God. Therefore, we have provided the following guidelines. Our hope is that these guidelines will help clarify expectations for those wanting to minister at the MVWC.

Guidelines and Standards

1. How can I know what the Miami Valley Women's Center considers "biblically-sound standards" and behavior "consistent with our Christian commitment and witness"?

The Miami Valley Women's Center acknowledges that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24). The Miami Valley Women's Center is not looking for "perfect" human beings, but repentant followers of Jesus. Indeed, when we sin, we must repent and turn from our sin because ongoing and unrepentant sin is not acceptable to God. We recognize that singling out certain behaviors as unacceptable requires drawing a line based on the determination of whether that particular behavior is: disruptive in the workplace, reflects poorly on the name of Christ or the Miami Valley Women's Center's reputation, distracts us from our core mission, compromises the safety of oneself or others, or is likely to be offensive or off-putting to our donors and/or ministry partners. Christians may sincerely reach different conclusions on some behaviors; but for this private organization, the Board of Directors and Executive Director of the Miami Valley

Women's Center discern and establish the standards to be upheld by employees and volunteers. Rather than trying to itemize behavioral "do's and don'ts," personnel should consider the following Biblical guidelines:¹

- A. ***Does this behavior, wherever engaged in, glorify God? Does it cause others to praise your Heavenly Father? Is it worthy of Jesus Christ?*** [See Matthew 5:16; Colossians 1:9-12; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Ephesians 4:22-24]
 - B. ***Does it build up other Christians and encourage love and good deeds?*** [See Hebrews 10:23-25; Ephesians 4:1-3; 15-16; Ephesians 5:3-4; Colossians 3:15-17]
 - C. ***Is it loving?*** [See John 13:34-35; Ephesians 5:1-2; Galatians 5:13]
 - D. ***Does it advance truth and truthfulness?*** [See 1 John 1:5-7; 3:18; Ephesians 4:25; 2 Timothy 2:15]
 - E. ***Is it good stewardship, i.e., a responsible way to use God-given time, talent and resources?*** [See 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:23-24]
 - F. ***Is this behavior consistent with the teachings of Scripture?*** [See Philippians 1:27; Titus 2:11-12; Galatians 5:22-25; Romans 13:13-14; Matthew 19:4-5; Proverbs 26:20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 6:12-13; 17-19; Philippians 4:8]
2. **Does the Miami Valley Women's Center have the right to have such standards that address my behavior outside of, as well as during, my work hours?**

Yes, it does, under decades of well-established law. A church or religious association, such as the Miami Valley Women's Center, has the right to consider religious criteria in ministering matters, according to judicial interpretations of the religious freedom guarantee in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as well as a number of federal statutes (including the Civil Rights Act of 1964). This includes the right to set and apply to job applicants and employees standards of conduct that are based on sincere religious belief.

3. **Do Miami Valley Women's Center standards apply to my private relationships or conduct outside of the workplace?**

Yes. We are Christian 24/7, not just while we are in the physical location of our work. While the Miami Valley Women's Center seeks to respect the privacy of its employees and volunteers, one's life away from work is an important component of one's witness as a Christian. As a Christian organization, the Miami Valley Women's Center expects biblically-faithful conduct both inside and outside the ministry. Such employee conduct reinforces the center's core mission, instead of distracting from it.

We expect employees and volunteers to conduct themselves honorably in their private lives. Any behavior inside or outside of the workplace which becomes: disruptive in the workplace, reflects poorly on the name of Christ or the Miami Valley Women's Center's reputation, distracts from our core mission, compromises the safety of oneself or others, or is likely to be offensive or off-putting to our donors and/or ministry partners, may be grounds for discipline or dismissal.

¹ Scripture verses mentioned in this policy are quoted in full in Attachment 1 of this document. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture is quoted from the New International Version.

Examples of these behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- substance or alcohol over-use or abuse;
- harassment of any type;
- child or spousal abuse or neglect;
- theft, fraud, embezzlement, corruption, bribery, misappropriations, or inappropriate removal or possession of property belonging to the Miami Valley Women's Center, a coworker, or a vendor;
- sexual conduct outside the biblical covenant of marriage between a man and a woman *;
- malicious gossip;
- physical aggression: fighting or threatening violence; etc.

The Miami Valley Women's Center expects that all individuals who minister with the Miami Valley Women's Center will try to the best of their abilities to conduct themselves according to these expectations. The Miami Valley Women's Center reserves the right to define acceptable conduct for Miami Valley Women's Center staff and volunteers and to end the ministry of any individual who fails to comply with these expectations.

*man and a woman – as demonstrated/revealed/shown at birth

Miami Valley Women's Center

Mission Statement

The Miami Valley Women's Center is a Pregnancy Resource Center that partners with the local Church to serve women, men, students, and their families with life-affirming information and compassionate services related to pregnancy decisions. We are an organization that values life, supports families, and demonstrates Christ's love.

Miami Valley Women's Center

Vision Statement

We envision that every person in the greater Miami Valley will experience gospel transformation that empowers them to choose life for their unborn children and God's design for sexual purity.

Miami Valley Women's Center

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

1. The Miami Valley Women's Centers are an outreach ministry of Jesus Christ through His church. Therefore, the MVWC, embodied in its staff and volunteers, is committed to presenting the gospel of our Lord to women with crisis pregnancies, both in word and in deed. Those who labor as MVWC board members, staff and volunteers are expected to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
2. The MVWC is committed to providing its clients with accurate and complete information about both prenatal life and abortion.
3. The MVWC is committed to integrity in dealing with clients, earning their trust and providing promised information and services. The MVWC denounces any form of deception in its corporate advertising or individual conversations with clients.
4. The MVWC is committed to helping women carry to term by providing emotional support and practical assistance. Through the provision of God's people and the community, women may face the future with hope and plan constructively for themselves and their babies.
5. The MVWC never discriminates in providing services because of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, disability, age, or national and ethnic origin.
6. The MVWC never advises, provides, or refers for abortion or abortifacients.
7. The MVWC offers assistance free of charge at all times.
8. The MVWC is committed to creating awareness within the local community of the needs of pregnant women, and of the fact that abortion only compounds human need rather than resolving it.
9. The MVWC is committed to the healing process of those suffering from the physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences of abortion.
10. The MVWC is committed to promoting God's design for sexuality and supports the biblical concept of abstinence outside of marriage and faithfulness within marriage.
11. The MVWC does not provide counseling for contraceptives or refer its clients for contraceptives or contraceptive services. (Married women seeking contraceptive information should be urged to seek counsel, along with their husbands, from their pastor and physician.)
12. The MVWC recognizes the validity of adoption as one alternative to abortion, but is not biased toward any life-saving alternative. It is independent of adoption agencies, relating to them in the same manner as other helpful referral sources. It receives no payments of any kind from these agencies, does not enter into contractual relationships with them, and does not share combined office space. It neither initiates nor facilitates independent adoption.
13. The MVWC is committed to the practice of non-violent opposition to abortion in both word and deed.
14. All Board members, staff and volunteers are in agreement with and committed to all corporate statements and policies and have signed the relevant commitments.

Miami Valley Women's Center
STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE

We believe Christian unity is a necessity in meeting the needs of our clients and as a visible witness to the community. The Miami Valley Women's Center maintains a position of neutrality regarding church distinctives and avoids espousing any specific denominational viewpoint in these areas. Our volunteers are from various church backgrounds, but all agree on the essentials of biblical Christianity, as expressed in the Statement of Faith of CareNet, and have professed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The presentation of the Gospel through the Miami Valley Women's Center is to be void of church distinctives which may cloud the life and death issue in which we are desperately involved and which might alienate our clients, volunteers, and the supporting Christian community.

(Revised 2/1998)

Miami Valley Women's Center
STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible The Bible, being fully inspired by God in its entirety, is His perfect Word and is the only authority for all faith and life. (Psalm 119:89; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

God There is one God, eternally existent in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Acts 6:4; Genesis 1:1-2; Deuteronomy 28:19; John 1:1-3; Romans 1:20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 1:4-6, 4:4)

Jesus Christ Jesus is true God and true man, was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died in our place on the cross, and rose bodily from the grave. He ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He, the only mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own. (Matthew 1:18-24, 24:37-44; John 1:1-3; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17; Hebrews 9:24; Revelation 14:11-16)

Holy Spirit The Holy Spirit is a Divine person who convicts people of sin, regenerates, indwells, and empowers the believer, dispensing spiritual gifts and developing holiness. (John 3:5-6; 14:16-17; 16:8-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:13-14)

Humanity All men are sinful and lost and can be saved only by grace through faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:26; 2:17; John 5:40; Romans 3:9-10, 19-23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 3:8)

Human Destiny The resurrection of the dead includes all men – the believer to life everlasting and the unbeliever to eternal condemnation. (John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Rev. 20:11-15)

Salvation Salvation comes to us only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from any human merit. (John 1:12; 5:24; 6:37-44; Romans 3:20, 27-28; 5:1-8; 10:9-10; 13:1; 1 Corinthians 1:29-31; 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:8-10; Colossians 1:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:4-5; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 2:19; Jude 1:24)

The Church The Church who is the body of Jesus Christ, for which He will bodily return, is comprised of all who have accepted the redemption provided by Him. The presence of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit in the believer will result in a life of personal holiness and a walk of obedience to the will of God. (Matthew 16:18-19; 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 13:1-3; 20:28; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:1-16; 5:25-27; Colossians 1:17-18; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Peter 5:1-2)

For purposes of the Miami Valley Women's Center's faith, doctrine, practice, policy and discipline our Board of Directors is the Miami Valley Women's Center's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Every associate of the Miami Valley Women's Center (staff, board, volunteers and intercessors), affirm these statements to be true. We respond to these truths, in part, through our service at Miami Valley Women's Center.

Miami Valley Women's Center

CORE VALUES

The Miami Valley Women's Center is a Christ-centered outreach organization. Our ultimate purpose is to utilize our God-given talents and gifts to honor Jesus Christ by caring for and educating individuals regarding pregnancy related issues.

UNIQUENESS OF HUMAN LIFE

We believe that all human life is sacred, created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect and value all human life (Ps 139). We demonstrate this belief through the respect, care and accurate information we offer to all clients served.

PURITY

We believe marriage is exclusively the union between one man and one woman.* We further believe faithfulness in marriage is the expression of God's design for sexual fulfillment. Therefore, we promote pre-marital abstinence with our clients and in community based education.

RESPONSIBILITY

We promote personal responsibility by teaching biblical principles and equipping individuals with practical life skills. Organizationally, we are committed to a continual improvement process.

COMPASSION

The core embodiment of our organization is to provide loving concern for clients in a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere. We encourage our clients by addressing their practical, emotional and spiritual needs with honesty, empathy and unconditional love. Our organizational focus is to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

INTEGRITY

We are individuals who uphold the standards of honesty and trust. We are accountable to manage financial and material resources in a wise and productive manner. We strive to achieve these principals with personal conduct that honors God, earning us a name worthy of trust by clients and community alike.

CLIENT-FOCUSED

We are dedicated to meeting the needs of our clients. We serve them by providing confidential services at no cost. We are committed to support each client by coming alongside them in friendship to see the possibilities and opportunities God has for them and their children.

*man and a woman – as demonstrated/revealed/shown at birth

(Revised 9/2015)