



ATLANTIC DBMD – SEXUAL PURITY & FREEDOM

We are so glad to be able to walk with you on the journey of preparation as an Ordained Minister in the Church. As you enter ministry prepared spiritually, intellectually, and practically, you will have the special privilege to be part of transforming people from death to eternal life and shepherding Christ's Church. In today's world, statistics tell us (and our own experience confirms) that most candidates for ministry are struggling with habitual, compulsive behavior—sexual or otherwise. This needs to be dealt with and established by a sustained pattern of victory before you are ready for ordination. Otherwise, your future ministry will be robbed of its spiritual power, be tainted, or even destroyed.

Paul's instruction to Timothy, who was just beginning his ministry journey, applies:

In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. (2 Timothy 2:20–22)

Admitting you are struggling with sexual sin, such as pornography, or sexual activity that is outside of your marriage, does not mean that your journey to become a minister is over – it means you are *serious about the journey*. There could also be other compulsive behaviors that need to be dealt with, such as gambling, substance/alcohol abuse, or food addiction. Do we need to hear from you so we can... remove you from the DBMD process? No! We want to come alongside you to share our own hard-won victories with you, to provide amazing resources, to connect you with customized ministries, groups, and professionals (at our expense) for your needs. Before God, we will ask you each year to answer the following truthfully.

In the past 12 months, have you engaged in:

- Sexual sin, such as pornography use or sexual acts outside marriage?
- Substance abuse, such as drunkenness or drug use?
- Other compulsive behaviours that are not compatible with my calling to ministry?

Our goal is for you to be experiencing sobriety in any of these areas by the time your ministry preparation process is done. You probably are tempted to say “No” when the answer is “Yes” based on a resolution that you will take care of it privately this year. That would make two lies: your lie, plus Satan's lie is that you can do this on your own. The truth is that you can do this with others around you. Lasting victory is what you will be preaching so you deserve and need to have it



yourself. See how the Scripture passage above ends? – “companionship.” When you answer “Yes” to any of these, you will be contacted by the DBMD Chair, to support you and to connect you with every resource, group, counsellor, and ministry you will need to move forward. Your victories will become foundational for your own future ministry with those who struggle.

This will *not* be openly discussed in your interview unless you choose to initiate it, but the DBMD Chair will follow-up with you as described above.