

Q&A

By Reverend Sola Adesope



QUESTION 1

We are hearing a few pastors call their spouses “first lady” during services. Is this now a trend in the Apostolic Faith Church?

- It has never been an Apostolic Faith practice to refer to our pastor’s wives as “first lady,” nor is there a Scriptural basis for doing so.
- The strength of a pastor’s wife is demonstrated by her “ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (1 Peter 3:4).
- It is usually not helpful for the pastor, his wife, or the congregation, to put the wife in the spotlight or in a position of vulnerability.
- The works of a virtuous pastor’s wife stand on their own merit, without her needing a title.

QUESTION 2

Is it true that the Apostolic Faith formally appoints assistant pastors for branch churches, and makes such an announcement publicly?

- See “Associate Pastors and Other Ministers” in the Minister’s Manual.
- It has served us well to have one leader in a church—the pastor—who is humble, serves the needs of the saints, and submits to his/her leaders.
- We typically refer to the ministerial staff as “ministers.” When a title is **needed**, we use “Associate Pastor,” “Associate Minister,” or “Youth Minister.”
- If there currently is no official assistant pastor in a church, we recommend against appointing one.

QUESTION 3

Can a pastor use a minister from another church, or someone who used to be an Apostolic Faith minister but left our fellowship, to officiate (e.g., lead in prayer or preach)?

- See “Denominational Characteristics” in the Minister’s Manual.
- The policy of not inviting outside pastors and ministers to fill leadership roles is a guardrail that protects us from much confusion and disunity.
- We do not hold worship services in conjunction with other denominations, nor do we invite ministers from other churches to teach in our services.
- Our prayer is that as we uphold the doctrines, practices, and denominational characteristics that have always distinguished this organization, individuals will be inspired to commit their lives to God.

QUESTION 4

Is it allowed for Apostolic Faith ladies who are workers to use hair extensions?

- The admonition to be “temperate in all things” (1 Corinthians 9:25) includes being moderate in one’s appearance and attire.
- We must be careful in defining what is “extreme.”
- As workers, we want all attention to be on Jesus Christ and not on us.

QUESTION 4

Is it allowed for Apostolic Faith ladies who are workers to use hair extensions?

“Fashions change with each generation, and what is appropriate and modest for believers in one era and culture may not be appropriate and/or modest in another. However, the Biblical principles regarding godly appearance are timeless. . . . In the New Testament era, Paul noted to Timothy that immodesty is marked by adornment that is elaborate, extravagant, excessive, or expensive. He instructed godly women to adorn themselves “not with broided hair [gold weaved in braids] or gold, or pearls [referring to jewelry, ornaments], or costly array, but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works” (1 Timothy 2:9). Decorating themselves with jewelry in an ostentatious manner was a common practice among non-Christian women of Paul’s day, and he was pointing out that those who professed faith in Christ should refrain from such practices.” [**Minister’s Manual \(page 99\)**](#)

QUESTION 5

Is dancing accepted in traditional wedding receptions or any part of our weddings?

- The short answer is no, whether or not the wedding and/or reception is at our church.
- “No indication is given of dance occurring within the New Testament church, and neither Jesus nor His Apostles allude to dancing as a method of worship. . . . Dancing, even under the guise of worship, appeals to the baser instincts of human nature . . . and therefore has no part in an Apostolic Faith church setting.” **Minister’s Manual** (page 224)
- “Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
- Dancing is not spiritually helpful to the dancer or observers since the focus is on the body of the dancer rather than God.

QUESTION 6

Issues of women wearing trousers/pants in the United States is causing a lot of saints in my district concern, and there is already some division and misunderstanding. Please, I need help in addressing this. What is our church's stance on this?

- We have always taught the Biblical principles of **modesty** and **moderation**. These must be properly imported into the various cultures where we have churches.
- “Let your moderation be known unto all men.” **Philippians 4:5**
- We do not have a harsh, unbending rule against women wearing pants/trousers, particularly when an activity is not modest or safe while wearing a skirt or dress.
- We teach clear differentiation between genders (Deuteronomy 22:5).
- We encourage ladies to wear skirts/dresses as much as possible, but the church cannot police people outside of the church environment.
- Modesty is exhibited in dress and in deportment. It ultimately must come from the heart, which is our focus.

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“It may not be wise to address a whole group of workers, such as the choir or orchestra, in order to correct a matter that actually concerns only one or two individuals. We also should be mindful of the fact that there is a difference between a thoughtless (or even somewhat careless) attitude regarding appropriate attire, and a spirit that is resistant to the Biblical principles of modesty and temperance. As pastors, our goal is to teach the Biblical principles, and encourage everyone to be sensitive and open to the instruction of the Spirit in the matter of modest dress.” **Minister's Manual** (page 101)

QUESTION 7

Is it appropriate for women to wear pants to church music rehearsals?

- The practice of our churches around the world is that our sisters wear skirts/dresses to church, including for choir/music rehearsals.
- We also request that men do not wear athletic-type shorts in these venues.
- For an example of attire at music rehearsals, you can watch the webcast of the [February 26 Portland Music Rehearsal](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) on YouTube.com/ApostolicFaithHQ.

QUESTION 8

What can pastors and ministers do to protect those in our congregations who are facing challenges from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)? Could we create a form to educate ministers on what to do?

- Rather than take an approach that is political in nature and therefore would cause division and disunity, we will take the Biblical approach, which commands us to love the people around us.
- We encourage our workers to show the love of God and support members who are affected by ICE.
- If it is needed, our *Volunteer Handbook* and *Safety and Security Manual* address how to respond to disruptions in a service. These are available on the church website.

QUESTION 9

Why is it that in Portland, retired leaders like Brother Darrel and Brother Dwight still officiate, while in many other areas of the work, previous leaders are not allowed to preach or officiate again?

- “Ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” **Galatians 3:28**
- It has never been our policy to preclude retired leaders from participating in the work, at whatever level the retiree’s leader deems best.
- Short of moral failure or gross insubordination, effectiveness rather than age is the criteria when it comes to using retired pastors.
- We encourage current leaders to work with retired leaders, and retired leaders to be flexible.

QUESTION 10

Is it okay for Apostolic Faith workers who are males to wear braided, locked, twisted, or very long hairstyles?

- We do not endorse our male workers wearing long hair, including braided, locked, and twisted hairstyles.
- “We uphold Paul’s conclusion that a woman’s head covering is her long hair.” **Minister’s Manual** (page 97)
- “Our personal appearance should be a credit to the Gospel message we proclaim. We should dress appropriately for the House of the Lord, and make sure that we are clean, neat, and well-groomed, as representatives of God himself.” **Minister’s Manual** (page 137)

OTHER QUESTIONS

If you have questions for the headquarters leaders, you can submit them by scanning this QR code and filling out the form.

