

Lighthouse Ministries International, Inc. (LHMI)

Global Ministry Dress Code Policy

Purpose

At Lighthouse Ministries International, Inc. (LHMI), our mission is to exalt Jesus Christ through evangelism, worship, and biblical living. As a non-denominational, multicultural, and multilingual ministry, we serve one God under many roofs, embracing a diverse congregation across North America, South America, the Caribbean, and other parts of the world. This dress code policy aims to provide clear guidelines that honor our commitment to modesty, respect cultural diversity, and maintain a worshipful environment.

Scope and Modesty Standard

This policy applies to all pastors, clergy, leaders, ministry workers, and volunteers representing LHMI in any capacity during services, programs, seminars, Life College sessions, GO Missions and other church-related activities.

Our congregation is multicultural and includes various age groups, and we seek to uphold a modesty standard that respects diverse backgrounds while maintaining reverence for Jesus and the church setting. Modesty is not about legalism but about presenting oneself in a way that is respectful, appropriate, and does not distract from the worship experience.

Defining Modesty for a Multicultural, Multi-Generational Church

1. Appropriate Coverage

- *Women:* Clothing should cover the chest, midriff, and back appropriately. Skirts and dresses should be at least knee-length or longer. If wearing fitted clothing, it should not be too tight or revealing.
- *Men:* Shirts should not be too tight or unbuttoned excessively. Shorts, if allowed, should be at least knee-length.

2. Balance Between Cultural & Religious Respect

- Many cultures have different perspectives on modesty. For example, some cultures prefer long skirts, while others find well-fitted slacks appropriate. Church leadership can create flexibility while upholding a respectful standard.
- Traditional or cultural clothing (such as African attire, Indian saris, or Caribbean wear) is welcome, as long as it aligns with the church's modesty standards (not revealing or extravagant).

3. Avoiding Distracting or Inappropriate Attire

- No excessively tight, sheer / see-through, or low-cut clothing.
- No see-through materials unless there is appropriate layering.
- No clothing with inappropriate logos, slogans, or images (e.g., profanity, offensive language, or secular messaging that contradicts our Christian values).
- No excessively flashy or extravagant outfits that could become a distraction during worship.

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4. Practicality for Different Ministries

- *Children's & Youth Ministry:* Modest but comfortable clothing that allows for movement (e.g., knee-length skirts, dress pants, or neat jeans with appropriate tops).
- *Worship Team:* While stylish clothing is acceptable, it should not be overly tight or flashy. Women should avoid deep necklines, and men should not wear muscle shirts.
- *Ushers & Greeters:* Since they represent the church, their attire should be modest, professional, and welcoming.

5. Age-Appropriate Modesty

- *Younger Members:* Teach and encourage modesty in a way that makes sense to them, rather than enforcing strict rules without explanation.
- *Older Members:* Allow for personal and cultural differences but maintain an overall expectation of modesty.

In summary a modest standard in our multicultural, mixed-age church promotes / includes:

- Respecting cultural differences while maintaining decency.
- Balanced between formality and approachability, depending on the ministry role.
- Freedom from distractions that take away from the focus on God.
- Practical for ministry work without being restrictive.

General Guidelines

1. **Modesty and Decency:** Attire should reflect modesty, avoiding clothing that is overly tight, revealing, or distracting. This standard respects our diverse congregation and maintains focus on worship.
2. **Cleanliness and Neatness:** Clothing must be clean, well-maintained, and/or ironed. Personal hygiene is essential to present oneself respectfully.
3. **Cultural Sensitivity:** We celebrate cultural diversity. Traditional or cultural attire is welcomed, provided it aligns with our modesty standards.
4. **Avoidance of Offensive Imagery:** Clothing should not display logos, slogans, or images that conflict with Christian values or could be considered offensive.

Jewelry, Accessories, and Appearance

- **Avoid Excessive Accessories:** Jewelry and makeup should be tasteful and not draw unnecessary attention.
- **Earrings for Men:** Men are not permitted to wear earrings while serving as clergy or on the platform at LHMI. While we do not reject men who attend our services wearing earrings, our male leaders are forbidden from wearing them, especially when serving in any ministry capacity on the platform.
- **Tattoos:** We prefer that individuals serving on the platform do not have visible tattoos. If someone has tattoos, they must be covered while ministering or serving on the podium.

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- **Cross-Dressing:** Cross-dressing is not permitted in our services. Individuals who present themselves in attire that does not align with their biological gender will not be allowed entry.
- **Excessive Piercings:** Nose, tongue, eyebrow, and lip piercings are not permitted for individuals serving on the platform. However, this does not prohibit individuals with such piercings from attending church services and programs.
- **Locks and Long Hair:** We do not prohibit locks or long hair, but they must be well-maintained and properly groomed.

Role-Specific Guidelines

- **Pastors, Preachers and Clergy:**
 - *Men:* Suits or dress slacks with a dress shirt and tie; dress shoes.
 - *Women:* Modest dresses or skirts (knee-length or longer) or dress pants with blouses; dress shoes.
 - *Special Occasions:* For formal events, more traditional or ceremonial attire may be required.
 - *Liturgical Wear:* Depending on the type of service, clergy robes or other vestments may be required.
- **Worship Team and Musicians:**
 - *Men:* Dress shirts or polo shirts with dress pants or neat jeans; avoid overly casual attire.
 - *Women:* Blouses with skirts (knee-length or longer) or dress pants; avoid overly flashy or tight-fitting clothing.
 - *Uniform Option:* If the church provides uniforms, team members should wear them neatly.
- **Ushers, Greeters, SSU, Hospitality and Protocol Officers:**
 - *Men:* Dress slacks with a dress shirt or polo; blazers are encouraged.
 - *Women:* Modest dresses, skirts, or dress pants with blouses.
 - *Uniform Option:* If the church provides uniforms, team members should wear them neatly.
- **Sunday School Teachers and Youth Ministry Leaders:**
 - *Men and Women:* Business casual attire that allows for movement; modest and practical.
 - *Comfortable & Appropriate:* Clothing should allow for movement, especially when working with children, but still be modest.
- **Media and Technical Team:**
 - *General Attire:* Neat and professional casual wear. Dark-colored clothing is often preferred to minimize distractions, especially on camera.

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- *Comfortable Shoes:* Since this role may require movement, closed-toe shoes are recommended.
- **Missions Outreach and Charity Volunteers**
 - *Comfortable & Appropriate:* Clothing should allow for movement, especially when working in varying environments, with produce, certain machinery or equipment that require additional support and protection.
 - *Comfortable Shoes:* Since this role may require movement, and working with heavy equipment or in harsh terrains, closed-toe shoes are recommended.

Casual and Midweek Services

For less formal gatherings, neat jeans, polo shirts, or modest casual wear are acceptable. Avoid athleisure wear, tank tops, or ripped clothing.

Seasonal and Cultural Considerations

- **Climate Adaptation:** Dress appropriately for local climates while maintaining modesty.
- **Cultural Attire:** Traditional or cultural clothing is encouraged, provided it aligns with our modesty standards.

Final Note

The goal of the church ministry dress code is not to enforce rigid rules but to ensure that ministry workers represent Christ with dignity and respect. Church leadership should communicate these guidelines with grace and flexibility, considering the congregation's culture and the church's vision.

Indemnification Clause and Compliance with LHMI Policies

By attending, participating in, or serving at any event, service, or program organized by Lighthouse Ministries International, Inc. (LHMI), individuals acknowledge and agree to comply with the ministry's established dress code and appearance standards. LHMI, its leadership, staff, and affiliates shall not be held liable for any personal grievances, emotional distress, or claims arising from the enforcement of these policies.

Furthermore, individuals voluntarily attending or serving at LHMI waive any right to pursue legal action against the ministry based on its established dress and grooming requirements. LHMI retains the right to deny platform participation or entry into services based on non-compliance with this policy.

By participating in LHMI services and activities, individuals also consent to photography and recording, as outlined in our legal disclaimers. Attire should be chosen with the understanding that images or recordings may be distributed or used in various media formats.

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This dress code policy reflects LHMI's core values of love for God and man, faithfulness to Jesus and His Word, loyalty, integrity, respect for family, respect for spiritual and civil authority, and humility. We trust that all members and participants will adhere to these guidelines, honoring our commitment to creating a respectful and worshipful environment.

By engaging in any function of LHMI, individuals affirm their understanding and agreement that LHMI, its affiliates, leaders, employees, and volunteers shall be held harmless from any legal claims, damages, or liabilities resulting from the enforcement of this dress code policy.

For more information about LHMI, our mission, vision, and core values, please visit our [About Us page](#) at www.lhmiinc.org. For details on our legal disclaimers, please refer to our [Legal page](#) at www.lhmiinc.org.

This policy is subject to review and may be updated at the discretion of LHMI leadership to reflect the evolving needs of our congregation and ministry.