



CORNERSTONE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Counseling Principles & Guidelines

In the course of pastoral ministry it becomes necessary and important for the Cornerstone Community Church staff and ministry leaders to also become counselors to impart biblical, spiritual, marital, and family counseling to those who may need it. That counsel must be done with complete integrity and godly character. With this in mind we have developed some principles and guidelines that we follow in our counseling ministry.

Your commitment is to:

- 1) Keep counseling appointments, unless urgent matters interfere, in which case you will notify your counselor as far in advance as possible.
- 2) Complete homework assignments.
- 3) Recognize the Word of God, the Bible, will be authoritative. Feeling better will not necessarily be considered "healing".
- 4) If at any point in time you decide to terminate counseling, you will discuss it with your counselor.

Your counselor's commitment to you:

- 1) Honesty throughout the counseling process.
- 2) Prayer on a regular and consistent basis.
- 3) Perseverance alongside you throughout the counseling process.
- 4) Respect and protect your right of confidentiality for all matters discussed during the counseling sessions.

Training: Counselors at Cornerstone Community Church are not certified state counselors. We have training through the AACC (American Association of Christian Counselors) and engage in ongoing training. The majority of our counsel is biblical in nature and founded on spiritual truths, we wholeheartedly believe in and have seen transform hundreds of lives. Understand that this counseling is not a medical, psychiatric, psychological or other professional service, but is exclusively the sharing and explaining of principles set forth in the Bible as applied to personal situations.

Hold Harmless: I have voluntarily sought this counseling on my own initiative. I am under no obligation or compulsion to accept this counseling or any advice I may receive during this counseling process. I further agree to hold Cornerstone Community Church, its staff members and its lay- counselors free from any and all liability, loss or damage of any kind that may arise as the result of the counseling.

loving Him and loving His people

Documentation: Counselors will take notes during the session. This helps us in many ways, 1) Observe patterns that may need to be addressed, 2) Keeps a record of the counseling 'journey', 3) Helps us to pray for the counselee.

The notes are completely confidential and will never be seen by anyone but your counselor.

Fee: We charge a small fee for counseling. The fee covers the time spent by your counselor(s) and helps the counselee to be more accountable to the counseling process. We have found that we honor what costs us. We ask \$25 per session (typically 1 hour), however we will make exceptions dependent on the counselee's ability to pay. Our goal is emotional and spiritual health.

Discloser: Any counselor representing Cornerstone Community Church may prayerfully choose to, or may be legally bound to disclose information received from me in the following circumstances:

- 1) The information may be disclosed to law enforcement officers or other governmental officials if the counselor believes that the information may be about an actual, threatened or potential crime, other violation of law, or other matter within the responsibilities of the officers or officials to whom the disclosure is made. In addition, if the counselor receives information that minors disclose regarding abuse, illegal activities, social dangers or abortion it will be disclosed to parents or other appropriate authorities if the counselor believes such disclosures will enhance the counseling process or provide necessary protection for the minor.
- 2) The information may be disclosed to whomever the counselor feels should have it, if the counselor believes it is about an actual, threatened or potential suicide, or other act of self-harm.
- 3) The information may be disclosed to other counselors representing Cornerstone Community Church as part of the normal assistance that the counselors give to each other in their work.

I pray that the Lord uses this ministry in a mighty way in your life to see you set free and come to a place of wholeness in Christ. He abundantly rewards those who diligently seek Him.

I have read the Counseling Principles & Guidelines. I understand and agree; I choose to abide by them as my free and voluntary:

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of Counselor _____ Date _____