



Pastoral Care Policy - Overview

Authorised :

Signed : _____

Date : _____

Name : _____

Position : _____

Aim:

To be a means of blessing to our community.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples**, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-36)

Objectives:

1. To provide a confidential environment that facilitates the sharing of issues that relate to a person's spiritual, physical and mental wellbeing.
(For further information see section 1 of Pastoral Care Accompanying Document.)
2. To provide a pool of volunteers that are happy to spend time with a person requesting a listening ear.
(For further information see sections 3 and 5 of Pastoral Care Accompanying Document.)
3. To care for those church attenders who do not necessarily belong to a life group.
(And encourage their connection with a suitable life group.)
4. To assist the Life Group Leaders with additional pastoral care, should they request it.
5. To use the local services in our area to provide professional support as is necessary.
6. To look after the wellbeing of the team of volunteers who have offered their time to this ministry.
(For further information see section 7 of Pastoral Care Accompanying Document.)

Serving God in this way is something that we as a pastoral care team feel compelled to do. We are not compelled by the core team or society but by the spirit of God which lives within us – Paul wrote to the Corinthians that with regards to bringing reconciliation of ‘man’ to God “for Christ's love compels us”, we, the church, by our actions showing the love of God in action, shows that we are disciples of Jesus; we will be bringing that reconciliation to our community. (2 Corinthians 5:14)

Confidentiality Statement:

(For further information see section 6 of Pastoral Care Accompanying Document.)

Bethel Pastoral Care Team respects the individuals' right to privacy and confidentiality. Any information that you give will not be shared outside of the Pastoral Care team, unless it is deemed that there is any risk to yourself or anyone else.

It may be necessary to share some information for supervision purposes, but no names will be used in these instances.

Any notes recorded will be kept confidential on our Pastoral Care email server. Bethel Pastoral Care Team are committed to protecting your privacy in line with the Bethel Baptist Church General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Policy.

Safeguarding for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

(For further information see section 8 of Pastoral Care Accompanying Document.)

Pastoral Carers who are called to provide pastoral care to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults must do so within the guidelines of our Church's and denominations Safeguarding Policies and Procedures and should be made aware of these and receive appropriate safeguarding training.

Pastoral Carers need to be aware of the individuals who hold the safeguarding role in our church, how and where to access them and when it is appropriate to do so. The full Bethel Safeguarding Policy document is available to read at www.bethelpontyclun.org. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please use the following email address:

Safeguarding@bethelpontyclun.org .

If a Pastoral Carer receives a confession or allegation of abuse or has any reason to suspect that a child or vulnerable adult has in the past been abused, or might be at risk of abuse or is currently being abused, they must act promptly within our Church's and denominations Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

Practical Ways We Can Help:

These are some of the activities that we will be engaging in:

1. Visit those who are housebound/hospitalised/living in a care home etc. whether long term or short term; whether church member or not and whether they have a faith or not.
2. Come alongside those who weep and those who rejoice by sending out flowers and cards on such occasions.
3. Read scripture and pray with those who are unable to attend church whether they are at home or in hospital.
4. Take the communion elements to the housebound.
5. Seek out those from the church, who are on their own.
6. Locating those suffering with ill-health and asking them if they would like someone to visit.
7. Helping people with hospital/GP visits - organise transport for those who have no other options.

8. Contact those who have attended church and have not done so latterly.
9. Signpost people who have specific difficulties to a professional organisation.

When the church functions as God designed it to, it resembles a wonderful extended family with a huge capacity to care, not just for its own members, but also for those who are vulnerable, sick or hurting in the wider community;. The Pastoral Team offers the church congregation a way to serve our community in a way that not only brings a social transformation but also deepens the experience of discipleship of the church volunteers who choose to become involved.