

advise you and pray with you more effectively. Members of this team are not necessarily qualified counsellors, but they will have received training and have been appointed because the Pastoral Working Group recognise certain pastoral gifts and qualities that they possess.

A Pastoral team member will be available to meet with you at a mutually convenient time, and appointments are co-ordinated through the counselling coordinator at the Church centre. Please call the centre to be put in touch with the coordinator.

Sometimes, all that is needed is a one-off time to talk and pray through a particular issue or problem. At other times several appointments over a period of time may be required. This will be agreed between you and the Pastoral Team member and will be reviewed regularly to ensure that the best approach is being followed.

Sometimes the Pastoral team may recognise a need for more in-depth counselling with a qualified counsellor, and in this case they will refer you on to the counselling team.

The Counselling Team

This small team is composed of qualified and experienced counsellors who operate according to a recognised Code of Ethics and Practice. After an assessment interview they will contract to work with you for a specific period (usually 4 to 6 one hour sessions in the first instance). You may be referred to the Counselling

Team by one of the Pastors, by the Counselling Coordinator or by one of the Pastoral Team. When it is agreed that counselling is finished, you may, if you wish, ask to be referred back to the Pastoral Team or the Pastors if there are other matters you wish to continue to talk and pray about.

Confidentiality

It is important for you to know that confidentiality is considered to be of the utmost importance in all our pastoral relationships. Nothing that you tell any member of any of the Pastoral Teams will be passed on to anyone else (not even the Pastors) without your permission. This includes referrals from one team to another. If you receive ministry from one team and then you are referred on to another team, no details of anything you may have shared will be passed on unless you specifically give permission for it to happen. In all other circumstances, anything you share will be kept confidential.

At your first appointment with the Pastoral or Counselling Teams, they will discuss issues of confidentiality with you before you disclose any information.

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*Tabernacle
Baptist
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**Pastoral
Ministry
Teams**

Pastoral Care at Tabernacle—Who's Who?

Introduction

The Pastoral Ministry Teams at Tabernacle seek to ensure that every member of the church family is cared for, and that we spread that care out to others in our community. The majority of pastoral care takes place through Fellowship Groups where we can meet together in small groups to minister to one another. Care also takes place through men's and women's groups, through the youth ministry and through Pastoral Carers. More informally, care is often expressed through after church coffee, offering lifts to and from the church and social activities.

We all recognise, however, that there can be times in our lives when we may require more in the way of caring than usual – following a bereavement, during times of sickness or emotional disturbances, through relationship difficulties or when there are times of family or work related stress.

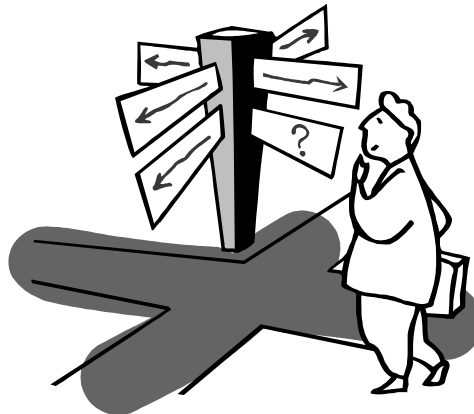
As part of the care on offer at Tabernacle, the Pastoral Working Group has commissioned three small, but distinct, teams of carers to help at these times. These teams are made up of church members who have been called and trained in their special areas of ministry and who assist the Pastors in the pastoral oversight of the church.

These three teams are the Prayer Ministry Team, the Pastoral Team and the Counselling Team. These notes are designed to introduce these teams to you and help you understand a little of how they operate.

The Prayer Ministry Team

This team operates mostly during Sunday services, particularly at the end of worship. However, they are available at other times by appointment. They should be wearing a badge for easy identification, and can usually be found at the front of the church at the end of services.

Their job is simply to pray with you about particular needs or worries that you might have. Their main goal is to help those they



pray with experience the healing, refreshing, restoring and empowering work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They will usually lay their hands on you as they pray (unless you would rather they didn't), and sometimes they may anoint you with oil as a sign of the touch of the Holy Spirit.

It is important to note that they are not counsellors, and so they will not spend a lot of time talking with you or listening to your problems. Their job is to move very quickly into prayer and to invite the Holy Spirit to come and minister in power.

Sometimes it is necessary to pray more than once for healing, and the team will be happy to meet with you as many times as is necessary. However, you may feel that following ministry you would like to talk with someone for a more prolonged period. If this is the case, then either tell one of the prayer ministry team or one of the Pastors, who can arrange a meeting with a member of the Pastoral Team.

The Pastoral Team

This team consists of mature, Spirit filled Christians who have a heart to listen and pray with people. Many of them have struggled in the past with the very same issues that you are trying to cope with now, and their experience will enable them to better understand you and help them to