



## **Welcome**

Faith Fellowship would like to welcome you to our Pastoral counseling service. We want to serve you well by making the process of engaging with a Pastoral counselor as clear as possible.

It is important for you to understand that the Pastoral counselor is not a professionally trained counselor. They are neither registered, nor licensed, nor certified by the State of Wisconsin or any national certifying bodies.

## **Method of Pastoral Counseling**

There are several different approaches to counseling. Our desire at Faith Fellowship is to create an environment in which every person coming through our doors will find a safe and loving place to experience the grace and truth of the gospel.

We believe that humankind is made in God's image and therefore has profound dignity. We believe starting here, with the dignity of the individual, really matters. Our biblical approach takes into account the whole person, which encompasses the body, mind, emotions, along with the spiritual.

We recognize the reality that we live in a broken world with other flawed image-bearers creating suffering and pain in our lives. We therefore seek to address the presenting issues, challenges, and pain that are unique to you and your situation.

## **Length of Pastoral Counseling**

The length of formal Pastoral counseling is difficult to predict, as each situation is unique. Our goal is to complete formal counseling in a timely manner. Typically, the length of counseling at Faith Fellowship will be **5 sessions**. If at this point you and your counselor agree that more sessions are necessary the number of sessions may be extended. Each extension will be re-evaluated between you and your Pastoral counselor. While the need for counseling in community never ends, the formal Pastoral counseling relationship between you and your Pastoral counselor will be temporary.

## **Fees**

Participants in Pastoral Counseling with Doug Redetzke are encouraged to pay a fee of **\$10.00 per session**. These funds are used to provide resources for your care and the counseling program here at Faith Fellowship.

Cash, or personal checks made out to Faith Fellowship with the word “counseling” in the memo line, and our text to give option with ‘counseling’ in the text are acceptable forms of payment. Credit cards are not accepted at this time. Payment is due prior to the session on the day of the appointment.

***If you do not show for a scheduled appointment, you agree to pay the cost for the session.***

## **Confidentiality**

With the exclusion of certain specific exceptions described below, you have the right to confidentiality of your Pastoral counseling. I cannot and will not tell anyone what you have told me, or even that you are counseling with me, without your prior permission. You may direct me to share information with whomever you choose, and you can change your mind and revoke permission at any time.

**We want you to be aware that at Faith Fellowship under certain circumstances, information might be shared with others on a “need to know” basis as follows:**

- If you are engaging in couples or group counseling, all safeguards to maintain confidentiality will be made, however there is a risk that confidentiality may be broken by other members of the group.

- I will also periodically - and with discretion - be consulting with other members of the pastoral staff to ensure quality as well as effective counseling. (Note: I may also confer with an outside Christian counseling agency, but will not share your name or personally identifiable information.)
- If you are a member or leader of the church exhibiting behavior that affects your spiritual well-being and/or that of the church, I may lovingly confront you about it. On rare occasions where unrepentant sin continues and/or you are in a leadership position in the church, after having informed you, I may consult with our Elder Team to seek their wisdom regarding how to lovingly lead you to a place of restoration (see process outlined in Faith Fellowship Doctrinal & Polity Appendices 1.2).
- There may be times when sensitive matters would be best handled in consultation with my wife, such as allegations of spousal abuse, female health issues, sexual matters, etc. In such cases, I would first consult with you before revealing any information to my spouse or asking for their assistance.

**Exceptions to your right to confidentiality are as follows:**

- If I have good reason to believe that you will harm another person, I must attempt to inform that person and warn them of your intentions. I must also contact the police and ask them to protect the intended victim.
- If I have good reason to believe that you are abusing or neglecting a child or vulnerable adult, or if you give me information about someone else who is doing this, I must inform Child Protective Services or Adult Protective Services.
- If I believe that you are in imminent danger of harming yourself, I may legally break confidentiality and call the police. I would explore all other options with you before I took this step, but if you were unwilling to take steps to guarantee your safety, I would call the police.

**If you have any questions or concerns about our confidentiality policy, please contact a member of our staff or our Elder Team.**

## **Emergencies**

In emergencies we cannot guarantee that you will quickly reach your Pastoral counselor. In case of emergency, **please call 911**. Crisis calls will be discussed during counseling meetings. It is your responsibility to seek appropriate resources in emergency situations.



