PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is made up of numerous ministries, most of which have been initiated by church members who recognized a specific need and stepped up to serve. Some of those include:

- **Burden Bearers** – team that greets, offers counsel to, and prays with people after each weekend service
- **Careers-in-Motion** - ministry offering guidance in the career search process
- **Click and Pray** – online prayer submission sent to people to pray upon receipt of email
- **Engine Room** - prayer ministry which occurs during the worship services
- **Forgotten Fathers** - ministry to men who have participated in an abortion
- **Funeral Team** - ministry to serve specific needs during funerals hosted at the church
- **Grief Recovery** - ministry for those experiencing loss through death of loved one
- **MenD** - Recovery ministry for men who are victims of sexual abuse
- **Notes Ministry** – handwritten notes of encouragement in response to submitted prayer requests
- **Pastor-on-Call** – calls requiring pastoral care and walk-ups are handled by staff members on a rotating basis
- **Prodigal** - ministry to loved ones of a prodigal who is far from God
- **Refuge** – a ministry of hope for the chronically ill and caregivers
- **Shelter** - recovery ministry for women who are victims of sexual abuse
- **Shift** - grief recovery ministry specifically for children 3rd through 12th grade
- **Shiloh** - ministry to women struggling with infertility or repeat miscarriages
- **Someone Cares** – post-abortion recovery ministry

HOW IS OUR APPROACH TO PASTORAL CARE DIFFERENT?

You may notice that traditional counseling is not listed among the ministries. We believe that any follower of Jesus Christ growing in his/her relationship with God, and who can accurately handle the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15) can offer biblical counsel. We also believe that healing occurs best in the context of biblical community. We encourage hurting, struggling people to first seek healing alongside other believers either through their community group or through one of the many ministries the church offers that is specific to their need, before seeking a professional counselor. If professional counseling is then sought, we encourage community to be a part of the solution.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Pastoral Care ministries are lay-led, with each lay leader ultimately accountable to a staff member.

When someone in need of pastoral care contacts us from outside the Watermark body, we will most likely set up a face-to-face meeting (individual and one or two staff members). During this meeting, we’ll help that individual come up with a plan and make some recommendations for their care or recovery. We might schedule a follow-up meeting but in this context, we do not seek to pursue any kind of long-term counseling or shepherding relationship.

We generally encourage them to first attend the ministry in question as participants and often as apprentice leaders after that. Each ministry has its own requirement for training.

Anyone can attend our ministries, but you must be a member to lead.

We practice men meeting with men, and women with women. We also encourage bringing a trusted friend of the same sex along.

- HThames@watermark.org
- Information for each of our ministries can be found at watermark.org