

Instructions: Prayer Care Team

Offering immediate care to those who respond in any church gathering.

UNDERLYING CONVICTIONS:

- ❑ **Presence of Christ:** In the context of worship and ministry of the Word, the Lord desires to touch people personally by grace, and to lift them into authentic relationship with God. Basic to all prayer is, “Come, Lord Jesus!” Revelation 22:20
- ❑ **Power is Released through Prayer:** God gives us the responsibility to call to Him on behalf of others (Ephesians 6:19). When we do, He responds by giving grace, blessing, healing, liberation, encouragement, and/or transforming power. He can do exceedingly, abundantly above all we ask or think. We believe that He can, so we ask that He will.
- ❑ **Promise to the Obedient:** As we, the Prayer Care Team members, become more sensitive and obedient to His leading in a worship service, God will do exceeding abundantly above all we could ask or think by His power working in us (Ephesians 3:20-21).

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION: Hebrews 4:14-16; John 15:7; James 5:16.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To hear and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit in ministry to individuals.
2. To bear burdens and encourage through listening love (Gal. 6:1-5; John 20:23).
3. To hear confessions and declare forgiveness (Galatians 6:1-5; John 20:23).
4. To clarify and affirm steps of faith, and to identify next actions to take (Joshua 24).
5. To release power for spiritual, emotional, and physical healing (James 5:16).
6. To personalize God’s care by blessing, releasing, or affirming God’s love.
7. To connect people for fellowship and refer people for further help.

INSTRUCTION:

- ❑ **Seek to sense what God is doing in a service.** E.g., conviction, comfort, commitment, healing. During the service, ask, “Lord, where are you leading us? How are You wanting to minister to me, and to us as a people?”
- ❑ **Listen to God’s Voice:** Discernment for “prayer care” comes on two levels:
 1. Sensitive listening to a seeker – their words, and longings behind their words.
 2. Active listening for clarifying Scriptures, impressions, promptings from the Spirit.
- ❑ **Act on the Spirit’s promptings appropriately.** Carefully begin to act on your “leadings” until you build greater confidence that it is “He,” and not just “thee,” producing the inner promptings. If in doubt, wait. Test it first. If a prompting is clear and confirmed, pray it or share it in a way that respects and guards the feelings of the seeker. Ask permission. Use gentle language like “May I offer an impression I sense I’m getting from the Lord?” or “Could the Lord be saying to you ...?”
- ❑ **Keep the Objective in View:** You are a connector, not a counselor. Your role is to learn or discern their need and lift it to the throne with faith and expectancy. People are prone to

process their pain and perplexities. Give them a little time, but ask “What can we bring to the Lord in prayer for you?” Refer to Hebrews 4:14-16 and move quickly into prayer.

YOUR KEY ROLES: How to personalize Christ’s heart for people (Jeremiah 31:3).

- ❑ **Listen:** Don’t feel pressured to have “the answer.” Listen, care, and follow the Spirit’s leading. Just taking time to listen may meet the deep need of the moment, and model the Father’s caring heart for them. Give them the gift of your ears.
- ❑ **Sealing a Decision:** When truth is heard, a person’s heart needs opportunity to respond. Help the person verbalize what God is saying to them or doing in them, shape a specific request and direct it to the Lord in a prayer of faith and decisive agreement.
- ❑ **Sharing a Word from the Lord:** While praying, watch for gentle, clear words from the Lord, e.g., Scripture, wisdom, revelation, or prophetic encouragement. Pray it or share it with humility, clarity, faith and confident authority, supported by God’s Word. Pray a release of the power of the Word, e.g., Romans 15:13; Colossians 1:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:3. This can minister significantly to an anxious, confused, and searching soul.
- ❑ **Blessing:** As prompted by the Spirit, speak words of blessing in the name of the Lord, e.g., “May God bless you with grace and courage to walk through this trial.” Or “God bless you with a sense of His complete forgiveness and accepting love.” See yourself as a “grace agent.” You will be modeling and strengthening faith. You will be verbalizing what God is already whispering to their hearts. The gift of faith engenders faith in a seeker.
- ❑ **Directing and Connecting:** You can be a facilitator of “Next Step” contact to help connect this person to other caring environments within the church. Who should they contact? Where might this person fit into the fellowship and small-group ministries here?
- ❑ **Referring:** Does this person have a particular need that requires a referral, e.g., a legal, psychological, medical, family, or marital crisis professional? Ask permission, make a note and contact the pastoral staff to help find the right care-giving solutions.

MISCELLANEOUS POINTERS:

1. If possible, pray in pairs. Gifts and personalities will be complementary.
2. If appropriate, pray with your eyes open. Watch to discern the response.
3. A gentle touch on the shoulder communicates warmth and care. Ask permission.
4. Gently pray (and/or share) impressions you sense are from the Lord, without preaching, arguing, or attempting to play the role of a counselor.
5. Anoint with oil only upon request or with their permission (James 5:14).
6. Explain briefly and gain permission before laying hand on the seeker.
7. Test promptings by Scripture and by the revealed character of God. If uncertain, wait. If possible, confirm with an pastor, elder, or mature prayer team member before proceeding.
8. At the request of the pastor, function as a “listening team” to assess spiritual impact and direction. Help assess how the Holy Spirit is moving in this present season.