

PASTORAL CARE AGREEMENT

Goal — The undersigned Pastor meets with members of this congregation and others in order to help determine God's wisdom for life's challenges and live in a way pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ. Pastoral care is provided without charge as a part of the ministry of this congregation.

Values — The Pastor ministers with the assumption that the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) is the supreme standard and authority for all life situations. Guidance will be based on biblical principles rather than on principles of secular psychology or psychiatry.

Credentials — Pastor is not a mental health or social work professional and does not provide care as a substitute for the services of such professionals. Even though Pastor may hold a degree or certification in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, psychotherapy, marriage & family therapy or social work, or hold a license or certification as such professional, it is understood that the care given will be spiritual, moral and ethical. I am free to consult with such professionals at any time.

Confidentiality — Confidentiality is an important aspect of pastoral care, and Pastor will carefully guard information disclosed during private sessions. There are five situations, however, when it may be necessary for certain information to be shared with others: when Pastor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor; when care recipient attends another congregation and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor; when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene; when either the law or the order of any court of competent jurisdiction requires such disclosure; or when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the congregation to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20).

UNDERSTANDING THESE FACTS, I AND PASTOR AGREE THAT:

1. I shall meet with the Pastor at mutually convenient times, to receive such pastoral care, subject to the stipulations listed above. I understand that this care will be given without charging any fee or requiring any compensation either for the Pastor or for the Congregation.
2. I agree that Pastor and the Congregation, including its officers, employees and members shall be immune from civil liability in damages for all acts within the scope of such pastoral care.
3. Pastor and I agree that if any dispute arises between us regarding the interpretation, performance or breach of this agreement, which cannot be resolved by our direct and mutual efforts, we shall submit the disputed matters to legally binding arbitration. We agree that this method shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim and I waive my right to file a lawsuit in any civil court, except to enforce this clause or an arbitration decision. We shall submit the matter to a Christian practitioner certified or recommended by Peacemaker Ministries, Inc., Billings, MT, unless we agree on another Christian arbitrator.
4. This agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of my heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

THIS CONTRACT CONTAINS A BINDING ARBITRATION PROVISION WHICH MAY BE ENFORCED BY THE PARTIES.

My Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Pastor _____ Signature _____ Date _____