

TERMS OF COUNSELING

The Biblical Counseling Ministry at Evangel Church PCA is committed to counseling using the Bible. All counselors who participate in this ministry have completed training in biblical counseling. We are confident in the level of commitment and compassion of all those who serve in this Ministry. For appropriate accountability and leadership, our biblical counselors are supervised by the pastoral staff at Evangel Church PCA.

Charges:

Counseling services are provided without charge to Evangel Church PCA members, visitors and the community at large. However, to compensate for administrative expenses, a Love Offering for the Ministry is encouraged.

Confidentiality:

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: (1) when a counselor is uncertain how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another professional, pastor or elder in this church; (2) when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders; (3) when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene; or (4) when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see *Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; and Matthew 18:15-20*). Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and they will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

Counselors refer any counselee who appears to be in a suicidal condition to our pastoral staff or other trained professional to provide appropriate care and protection.

All counselors report any incident of suspected child abuse, domestic violence, destructive threats, or subpoenas to our pastoral staff to be reported to the appropriate authorities as required by law. Certain laws require that counselors warn the appropriate individuals if any counselee expresses an intent to, or appears likely to, take harmful, dangerous or criminal action against a counselor or any other person.

Appointment Cancellation Policy:

Counseling works best when consistent sessions are scheduled with your counselor. Repeat cancellations may result in our inability to continue counseling you. Please notify your counselor at least 24 hours in advance if you cannot keep your scheduled appointment.

Not Professional Advice:

Some of our counselors work in professional fields outside the church. When serving as counselors within this church, however, they do not provide the same kind of professional advice and services that they do in their professional capacities. Therefore, if you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from an independent professional.

Waiver of Liability:

THE UNDERSIGNED, having sought biblical counseling such as offered by Evangel Church PCA, a non-profit religious organization, hereby acknowledges his/her understanding of the above and the following conditions:

1. It is understood by the participant counselee that all biblical counseling will be provided by certified biblical counselors, lay biblical counselors or pastoral staff, not licensed therapists.
2. All counseling provided in the Biblical Counseling Ministry is provided in accordance with the biblical principles adhered to by Evangel Church PCA and are not necessarily provided in adherence to any local or national psychological or psychiatric association. (Please see our website for a complete listing of our doctrine and statement of belief.)
3. No representation has been made, either expressly or implied, that the biblical counseling conducted by the counselors or pastoral staff in this Ministry, is accepted as customary psychological and/or psychiatric therapy within the definitional terms utilized by those professions.
4. Certain statements may not be protected as privileged communications under law.
5. I agree that any dispute with a counselor, the pastoral staff, or with this church arising from or related to counseling will be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries.
6. By signing these Terms of Counseling, I agree that I will not attempt to subpoena or require any counselor or pastoral staff to appear in any legal proceeding related to any matters discussed during counseling; nor will I attempt to subpoena any notes or records related to this counseling. Furthermore, I release Evangel Church PCA, its agents, counselors and employees, from any liability or claim arising from my participation in the above-mentioned Biblical Counseling Ministry.

Counselee

Date

Counselor

Date