Pastoral Care Team - Purpose

Purpose of the team: The Pastoral Care team will seek to provide pastoral care support, as a ministry of presence, for all ministers, Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLP) & educators who are serving in the Denver Presbytery as a support to and under the direction of the Presbytery Pastor. This also would include retired ministers and widows, ministers at large and ministers in specialized ministry. During care contacts the team may become aware of issues that need to be addressed programmatically through seminars, retreats, or roundtables, the team may choose to help sponsor and promote such events or encourage others to do so.

Make up of the team: The team members will be recruited and approved by the COM in consultation with the Presbytery Pastor and commissioned at a Presbytery meeting. The team will be intentionally made up of ministers with a variety of experiences and backgrounds.

Organization and Assignments: Team members will contact ministers, and as new ministers enter the Presbytery, to encourage self-care and self-selected support groups and helping to connect ministers into such groups as they express interest. The team members will be educated in the multiple resources in the presbytery for support of ministers in their ministry and help direct them to various resources as appropriate. However beyond initial and occasional contacts with the ministers in their region, ministers are free to request Pastoral care from any member of the team that they choose. Because the main goal of the team is ministry of presence, the team members will also be equipped with a list of people for referrals in the areas of: Spiritual Direction, Coaching, Psychotherapy, counseling and mentoring, financial planning those with specialized ministry skills and trained to know when to recommend which type of support.

Ongoing supervision & training of the team: Upon being commissioned the team will have training that includes: Expectation of ministers for care in the Presbytery, Needs of ministers, Resources to meet those expectations and needs, Developing a covenant between caregivers and the Presbytery, and when it is appropriate to refer their care receiver. The team will meet together quarterly to share concerns, identified needs, discover ways to connect ministers for support and other training that may be needed. The Presbytery Pastor will check in with the members of the Pastoral Care Team to provide care and support for them and they are encouraged to consult with the Presbytery Pastor as they need guidance.

Revised April 2019

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Issues of Confidentiality: Members of the team will maintain confidentiality and not share details of conversations with the Presbytery Pastor or COM with out permission except in the following situation:

- Threats of violence to self or others.
- Sexual misconduct as defined by the Presbytery Policy
- Abuse or neglect of Children
- Action that could lead to charges through the Book of Discipline

Promotion of the Pastoral care in the Presbytery: A brochure will be developed that lists all the various care resources in the Presbytery and the availability of the Pastoral care team. The brochure shall list the members of the team, their background and experience and contact information. It should include situations that a Pastoral Care team member might be most helpful. The brochure should also clarify the confidentiality parameters.

Areas of concern to be considered for Pastoral Care: This process is a first step and focuses initially on ministers and CLP's serving congregations. There are other identified groups we will seek to extend care to in the future. These groups are:

- Retired Clergy and widows of clergy
- Ministers transitioning into retirement
- Certified Christian Educators
- Ministers at large
- Ministers in validated ministries
- Candidates certified ready to receive a call
- Minister's Spouses
- Educators and Youth Workers employed by congregations