

Prayer Care Team

Offering Immediate Care

OPERATIVE BELIEFS: Prayer Care Team members have an active faith as follows:

1. **Christ is present with grace and truth:** In the context of any gathering at Christ Center the Lord desires to touch people personally, and to lift them into authentic relationship with God. Basic to all prayer is, “Come, Lord Jesus!” Rev. 22:20
2. **Grace and truth are released through prayer:** God gives us the authority to intercede on behalf of others (Ephesians 6:19). When we do, we anticipate by faith that He will respond by giving grace, blessing, healing, liberation, encouragement, and/or transforming power.
3. **God will meet us in our obedience:** 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).

KEY SCRIPTURES: Hebrews 4:14-16; John 15:7; James 5:16.

QUALIFICATIONS: Prayer Care Team members may be men or women, youth or adults, members or non-members. However, PCT members must be born again, Bible-literate, Spirit-filled, and proven in vital prayer ministry. They seek to be fully devoted to Jesus, because they are asked to share His heart for spiritually open, vulnerable people. The Prayer Ministry Coordinator, with the pastor, will identify, train, and supervise the PCT.

OBJECTIVES: Prayer Care Team members partner with the Spirit, relying on His power . . .

1. To hear and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit in personal ministry.
2. To bear burdens and encourage through listening love (Galatians 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 actions to take (Joshua 24).
5. To pray in faith 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 loving fellowship and to refer if needed for further professional help.

INSTRUCTION:

1. **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?”
2. **Listen to God’s voice:** Discernment for “prayer care” comes on two levels:
 - a. Sensitive listening to seeker – their words, and longings behind their words.
 - b. Follow-up questions to clarifying what the Spirit might be saying to the seeker.
3. **Clarify the Spirit’s promptings appropriately.** Silently ask the Lord for Confirmation. If in doubt, wait. If a prompting is clear and confirmed, pray it or share it in a way that respects and guards the integrity of the seeker. Use gentle language like, “My I offer an impression I think I am getting from the Lord,” or “Do you sense the Lord is trying to say to you ...?”
4. **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 throne of God in prayer?” Read or refer to Hebrews 4:14-16 and move quickly into prayer.

KEY ROLES: Prayer Care Team members personalize Christ’s heart for people (Jer. 31:3).

- 1. Listening:** 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.
- 2. Sealing a Decision:** When truth is heard, the heart needs opportunity to respond. Help the person verbalize what God is saying or doing, shape a specific request and direct it to the Lord in a prayer of faith and decisive agreement.
- 3. Sharing a Word from the Lord:** While praying, watch for gentle, clear words from the Lord, e.g., Scripture, wisdom, encouragement, or prophetic word. Pray it or share it with 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 ministers significantly to an anxious, confused and searching soul.
- 4. Blessing:** As you sense appropriate, 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 whispering to their hearts.
- 5. Directing and Connecting:** You can be a significant personal 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 ministries here?
- 6. Referring:** Does this person have a particular need that requires a referral, e.g., a 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 arm or shoulder communicates warmth and care.
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 (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, confirm with an 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, either in body-life services or periodic training sessions.