

COUNSELING AGREEMENT

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

260 Headtown Rd • Jonesborough, TN 37659
Telephone: 423-753-4394 • Facsimile: 423-753-8527

General Information

As a pastor, my prayer is for the Holy Spirit to work in my life and your life so that God honoring change and healing occurs. It is my desire for you to have a safe, open context where you can explore problems and develop biblical solutions. I plan to incorporate Scripture, prayer, and other Christian disciplines into the counseling process when beneficial and appropriate. I also plan to incorporate homework as part of the counseling process. This allows you the opportunity to work on things outside of session related to your goals. For the most part, I structure pastoral counseling to consist of 5-6 sessions. After this, if there is the need for additional counseling I may refer you to someone for further assistance. If I do not feel adequately trained or best suited to help you, I will refer you to another pastor or Christian counselor in the area to assist you.

Confidentiality

While I cannot promise strict confidentiality, you should assume that I am always going to use discretion with the information conveyed to me. Most of the time, I will be able to keep your information private. Information may be released to appropriate third parties when you sign a written release of information indicating informed consent to such release, when Tennessee state law requires a breach of confidentiality, or when obeying the Bible requires a breach of confidentiality. Below are the exceptions to confidentiality:

Exceptions mandated by State Law

- 1) There is an impending suicide risk.
- 2) A counselee discloses past or present instances of the abuse or neglect of a child, elderly person, or mentally challenged person.
- 3) There is a probability of imminent harm to the counselee or others.
- 4) Counseling records may need to be released when they are subpoenaed by a court of law.

Pastoral Exceptions

There may be times when I will have to speak to others in order to wisely discern how best to shepherd you as a member of Trinity Baptist Church. In the event that your behavior and/or circumstances necessitate the initiation of the process of church discipline and oversight of the other pastors you will be so advised, yet not require me to have you sign a release of information before speaking with the other pastors. Examples of pastoral exceptions to confidentiality are when the counselee 1) is engaging in repeated, ongoing immorality (e.g., adultery); 2) has recently committed sexual or physical abuse; 3) is engaging in repeated, ongoing drug and/or alcohol abuse. These examples are not exhaustive. There may be other examples where the pastors and possibly the church will need to be informed in accordance with Matthew 18. In such an instance, the pastors will deal with your situation in accordance with the church's governing documents and you will be afforded all the steps of Matthew 18 before any public disclosure to the church is made.

Emergency Information

In the event of an emergency the counselee should dial 911 or go directly to the nearest hospital emergency room to receive emergency assistance.

Counselee Rights

As a counselee you have the right to discuss possible outcomes and challenges regarding the counseling and receive an estimate of the predicted length, goals, and outcome of the counseling, as well as alternative options to that counseling. You have the right to ask about and/or refuse any techniques used. You are encouraged to report to a pastor at Trinity Baptist Church if you have any grievances regarding the care you receive. You may discontinue meeting with me at any time.

Statement of Understanding

I voluntarily consent to pastoral counseling services provided by Nathan Moore, Associate Pastor. In signing this form, I understand and agree with all the terms and conditions set forth in this document.

Counselee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Counselee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pastor Signature: _____ Date: _____