

Counseling and Leadership Standards Agreement

Canyon Hills Community Church exists to "make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ". The Counseling Ministry seeks to help accomplish that goal by "compassionately ministering the gospel of hope for the sake of the suffering and the equipping of the saints for the glory of God" (Eph 4:12, 2 Cor 4:17, 2 Cor 5:9). To help fulfill these objectives, the Counseling Ministry has established the following requirements for Counselors:

- 1) Counselor Application and Questionnaire
- 2) Counseling and Leadership Standards Agreement (this form)
- 3) Counselor Policy and Procedures

COUNSELING AGREEMENT

Approach to Counseling

- Counselors agree to rely on the sufficiency of scripture and Nouthetic counseling practices as the standard for counseling.
- Secular psychology and Integrationist Christian psychological methods of therapy are not utilized.

Responsibilities of Canyon Hills Community Church

- Provide a safe place for counselors and counsees to meet
- Provide access to resources and materials needed for counseling
- Provide access to guidance and accountability from the Counseling Ministry leadership

Responsibilities of the Counselor

- The Counselor shall be under the authority of Scripture and the Counseling Pastor
- The Counselor **will not** begin counseling unless all forms are completed and signed by the counselee. These forms include the Personal Data Inventory, Biblical Counseling Policy, and Counseling Agreement.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled counseling appointments
- Prayerfully prepare for each counseling appointment.
- It is prohibited for a male counselor to counsel a female counselee alone. In the same spirit, female counselors may not counsel male counsees alone.
- Maintain counselee privacy and confidentiality as outlined in the Counseling Policy (PDI)
- CHCC will make every effort to report all instances of abuse (sexual, physical, child, spouse or elder) and/or suicide attempts to the proper authorities within 24 hours. The report starts with notifying the Counseling Pastor who will walk beside the counselor as he/she reports to state authorities.
- Under no circumstances will illegal/criminal activity be held in confidence.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the COUNSELING AGREEMENT as stated above:

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Counseling and Leadership Standards Agreement

LEADERSHIP STANDARDS

The Word of God emphasizes the power of one's example. Our Lord taught that "...everyone when he is fully trained, will be like his teacher." The apostle Paul, because of his exemplary lifestyle, was able to say that "What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:9)

Serving as a leader carries with it increased responsibilities and expectations. Therefore, those seeking to serve in a position of leadership as a Counselor at Canyon Hills Community Church are asked to affirm their commitment to a common set of leadership standards.

Recognizing the biblical truth of the power of one's example, I will strive to:

In my personal life...

- Study the Scriptures faithfully and apply them carefully to my daily life.
- Maintain a disciplined prayer life.
- Seek to grow in personal holiness and maintain a good testimony both inside and outside of our church.
- See to be conformed to Christ and not to the world.
- Minimize the use of alcohol as a beverage, forms of tobacco, or drug use in any form.
- Control my appetite so as not to be guilty of gluttony.

In my family...

- Be growing as God's kind of spouse, recognizing that our relationship is to be a picture of Christ's relationship to the church.
- Raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

In our church...

- Faithfully attend CHCC church services.
- Communicate quickly and biblically about problems and concerns.
- Joyfully follow the leadership of our pastors and elders.
- Serve in a way that contributes to unity and not disunity in the church.
- Tithe faithfully of my income (consideration will be given to wives of unsaved husbands).

In my ministry...

- Complete my ministry responsibilities in a thorough and timely manner. (see Counselor Policy and Procedures)
- Love and pray for those to whom I minister.
- Attend training and department meetings as offered, to improve my abilities
- Contact my ministry leader as soon as I know that I must be absent from my responsibilities.

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In the way I exercise Christian liberty...

- Dress in a way that is modest and neat – “corporate casual”.
- Recognizing the growing trend of social media, every effort should be made to be mindful of and guard against the use of social media that would give others reason to doubt the sincerity of your devotion to Jesus and His Word.
- Guard against the influences of questionable television programs, videos/DVDs, movies, internet sites, computerized media, etc.
- Realize that the Scriptures do not specifically speak to every contemporary issue. In these "gray areas", I will follow the biblical principles of:
 - If it's doubtful, don't do it (Rom 14:23)
 - It is often best to voluntarily enslave my liberties in order to maximize my ministry (1 Cor 8-10)
 - Just because it's lawful doesn't mean it's best (1 Cor 6:12)
 - Avoid anything that could enslave me (1 Cor 6:12)
 - Avoiding anything that could cause someone else to stumble (1 Cor 8:9)

While there may not be universal agreement on each contemporary issue, leaders must give evidence that they handle areas of Christian liberty in this way.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the LEADERSHIP STANDARDS as stated above:

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____