



Counseling Ministry

"Changing Lives by Caring"

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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John 13:34 – A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

The words of Jesus listed above speak of deep and sincere compassion. In looking at his words more closely, we notice quite clearly that loving one another is not an option. It is a command.

The world around us is hurting and looking for a source of Hope. The Apostle Paul's words echo that sentiment as well – *bear one another's burdens...*

Galatians 6:2 – Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Where can people go to find hope? Where can one go to find someone who will listen, understand, pray, and encourage – all for the sake of following the example of Jesus Christ?

Why a Counseling Ministry?

As we look at the world around us today, we clearly know, probably from personal experiences, that people like to know that others care. People experience pain and grief, struggles and sorrow but yet have no one to turn to.

As a church that wishes to champion God's vision to Reach, Teach, and Serve, we seek to intentionally and compassionately care for all individuals in our church, community, country, and beyond.

Doing so requires a ministry that is Christ-centered, Lay-driven, and Action-Oriented...all with the purpose of changing lives.

Vision of the Counseling Ministry

Changing Lives by Caring

The Counseling Ministry has the vision of changing lives through compassionate caring as exemplified by Jesus Christ. We will strive to reach out to the broken, hurting, and wounded in order for them to experience the healing power of Jesus Christ.

Objectives of the Counseling Ministry

The Counseling Ministry has a long-term goal of giving care and comfort to our church, community, country, and world. We seek to accomplish this using the following objectives:

Objective #1 – Be Christ-Centered

- **Matthew 25:40** – The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’
- In all we do, honoring Christ and keeping the focus on His love for ALL people will be our primary objective. Counseling will be offered in a distinctively Christian way, biblically based.

Objective #2 – Be Lay-Driven

- **Ephesians 4:12** – ...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.
- In churches far and wide, pastors and ministers can not do the work of care and counseling alone. Gifted volunteers will be trained to provide ongoing care and encouragement for those seeking assistance.
- Utilizing volunteers will allow the care of the church’s Ministerial Staff to be multiplied.

Objective #3 – Be Action-Oriented

- **Romans 12:15** – Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn.

- In offering sincere compassion, we will seek to honor the example that Christ set before us. Our goal will not only be to provide counseling, but enable those who receive care to one day share their own words of hope and encouragement to those who may come to them for care. In this way, a Counseling Ministry truly puts its focus on changing lives for generations to come.

How Can I Get Involved?

There are many ways you can get involved in the Counseling Ministry of Cicero Christian Church. There is a place for people of many different giftings.

Task #1 – Pray for the Counseling Ministry

Task #2 – Join the Counseling Ministry Team (oversight)

Task #3 – Become a trained volunteer Counselor

If you have a heart for people and wish to share a word of hope and encouragement with others, the Counseling Ministry has a place for you. Contact Doug Wiggers if you are interested.

Scripture quotations are New International Version, taken from the Holy Bible, NIV Version, Copyright 1973, 1978 & 1984 by IBS.

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