



Myrtle Baptist Church

21 Curve Street / West Newton, MA / 02465

PASTORAL COUNSELING RELEASE FORM

PASTORAL COUNSELING AGREEMENT

In order to be fully informed about the pastoral counseling you will be receiving, please read through the following agreement, sign and date it at the bottom. This form must be signed and returned to the church office before the first session. *Please be advised that couples receiving counseling should submit a form for each individual.*

Description of Pastoral Counseling

The goal of pastoral counseling is to help an individual think spiritually about their current struggles in the context of a confidential, caring environment. Guided by biblical principles, your pastoral counseling experience will utilize guided questioning, empathetic support, problem definition, reflection/reading assignments, encouragement, and prayer to provide wise, biblical and faithful counsel to those who are hurting and in need.

Confidentiality

We adhere to commonly accepted codes of privacy and confidentiality in counseling ethics. It is understood (and agreed) that all statements, whether written or verbal, in your pastoral counseling sessions are of a confidential nature and ethically cannot be disclosed without written consent. There are certain situations, however, in which the law requires that certain information can be revealed without your consent. The following exceptions will result in confidentiality being waived.

1. We reserve the right to report child abuse or suspicion of child abuse of any type to the proper authorities and/or the right to cause a report of child abuse to occur.
2. We reserve the right to disclose to the appropriate person, agency or civil authorities any harm that a person may attempt or desire to do to one's self or to others.
3. We reserve the right to consult with other licensed counseling professionals regarding your sessions.

Rights as a Participant

1. You are entitled to information about any procedures, methods of counseling, techniques and possible duration of counseling.
2. You have the right to end counseling at any time without any moral, legal or financial obligations.
3. You have the right to expect confidentiality within the limits described.

Waiver of Liability

In consideration for receiving pastoral counseling, guidance and encouragement, the person receiving counseling agrees to release and waive any and all claims of any kind against Myrtle Baptist Church or its agents or employees arising from or relating to participation in pastoral counseling.

Fees

There is no charge for pastoral counseling services at the Myrtle Baptist Church of West Newton.

Scheduling of Appointments

Counseling appointments may be scheduled by contacting the Administrative Assistant to the Pastor at pastorassistant@myrtlebaptist.org. It may be necessary for you to make adjustments to your schedule in order to get an appointment. Most appointments are one hour in length. It is your responsibility to schedule each appointment through the Pastor's Administrative Assistant. If you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment, please call the church office directly at 617-332-5870. If you cancel an appointment, it is your responsibility to reschedule it. There may be times when we must reschedule an appointment due to emergency circumstances. In such cases, we ask for your flexibility and patience and we will contact you to reschedule that appointment.

Referrals

Pastoral counseling is provided for a maximum of five (5) sessions unless arrangements have been made in advance of beginning the sessions. If the issues presented indicate a need for intensive clinical counseling or psychotherapy, then appropriate referrals may be made. You always have the choice to refuse a referral.

I, the undersigned, have carefully read, understand and agree to all of the above terms and conditions. I further acknowledge that all of the information contained on the following data sheets is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

