



INFORMED CONSENT PASTORAL COUNSELING AGREEMENT

In order to be fully informed about the pastoral counseling you will be receiving, please read through this following agreement, sign and date it at the bottom. This form must be signed and the intake form must be completed and returned to the church office before the first session.

DESCRIPTION OF PASTORAL COUNSELING: The goal of pastoral counseling is to help an individual think biblically about their current struggles in the context of a confidential, caring environment. A pastoral counselor relies on Scripture as the sole authority for faith and conduct and recognizes that lasting change is the result of the power of God, the grace of Christ and the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit. Guided by biblical principals, the Counselors role is to 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. **Note:** This is not clinical or psychology-based counseling.

REFERRAL POLICY/DISCLAIMER After reviewing the intake form (if applicable), we will determine whether or not we feel we can provide you with the appropriate services and level of care needed. Clients will be referred outside of Fellowship Baptist Church when treatment required is beyond the scope of care available here.

PASTORAL COUNSELING FEES Each session is 50 minutes. Counseling sessions will take place in the pastoral study at FBC Sidney. Please check in at the church office at the front desk. Payment is due at the beginning of each session and accounts must be kept current in order to continue counseling. Cash or checks are accepted forms of payment (checks made payable to "Fellowship Baptist Church") Scholarships may be available if qualifications are met for financial difficulty. Charge is \$50 per counseling session. Please note that we are unable to accept insurance. **Fees waived for FBC Sidney members.**

CLIENT EXPECTATIONS Please plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment so the session can begin on time. You may be asked to complete homework assignments, or purchase a book to be read in conjunction with your pastoral counseling. In addition, prayer, Scripture reading or memorization may be utilized as part of the counseling process. Your commitment to the counseling process will greatly determine the outcome of your experience.

CONFIDENTIALITY Your pastoral counselor will adhere to commonly accepted codes of privacy and confidentiality in counseling ethics. There are situations, however, in which the law requires that certain information can be revealed without your consent. Under the discretion of the pastoral counselor, if there is any indication that you may be a danger to yourself or others, or are involved in the abusing of a minor, your information may be disclosed to appropriate mental health services or law enforcement.

Also, an issue may occasionally arise that would benefit from the counsel or involvement of a pastor or another counselor at FBC Sidney. If deemed appropriate, your pastoral counselor may decide that a pastor be consulted to insure the quality of care you are receiving. In addition, the counselor reserves the right to disclose to his wife details he deems appropriate, and she is also bound by strict confidentiality.

RIGHTS AS A CLIENT 1. You are entitled to information about any procedures, methods of counseling, techniques and possible duration of therapy. 2. You have the right to end counseling at any time without any moral, legal or financial obligations other than those already accrued. 3. You have the right to expect confidentiality within the limits described. 4. You have the right to authorize your counselor to consult with another professional about your therapy in writing.

MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION Disputes arising out of or in relation to this agreement to provide services shall first be referred to mediation, before, and as a pre-condition of, the initiation of arbitration. The mediator shall be a neutral third party chosen by agreement of the therapist and client. The cost of such mediation, if any, shall be split equally.

CANCELLATION POLICY We request that you notify your pastoral counselor at least 24 hours before your scheduled appointment time if you need to cancel a session. Failure to do so could result in payment of half of the fee for the missed appointment. If deemed necessary, this charge should be paid before or at the time of your next appointment to continue in the counseling relationship. Exceptions are for sudden illnesses and emergencies only.

REQUIREMENT OF ALL CLIENTS All clients must agree to daily meditative devotions and observance of Sunday worship at a practicing orthodox church (if there is a question as to whether your church is orthodox, please consult the counselor).

SCHEDULE COUNSELING To schedule an appointment, please email Jordan Hall at fbc.sidney@gmail.com. If you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please call the office phone at 406-433-4004 and leave a message. For emergencies after-hours, please call 911, or go to your local emergency room. By signing below, you are acknowledging that you understand and accept the guidelines stated above.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____