



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

The ministerial staff does not function as licensed counselors. The ministerial staff will minister to an individual on a spiritual, pastoral level only. All pastoral care is based on the written and sincerely held religious beliefs of First Baptist Church Allen as reflected in The Baptist Faith and Message (2000). The church disclaims any affiliation with APA, A-Psych, AMA, or similar organizations or compliance with their standards.

If the individual being ministered to needs licensed counseling assistance in addition to pastoral care, the ministerial staff will refer that individual to a licensed counselor or appropriate medical doctor.

The information communicated to the ministerial staff member in the context of pastoral care will be confidential and will not be disclosed to any third parties, except for the following information, which if learned, will be disclosed to appropriate authorities:

- Any occurrence of or intention to commit child abuse.
- An intention to commit a felony.
- An intention to commit suicide/homicide.

Pastoral care sessions involving a member of the opposite sex from the ministerial staff member or who is a child under 18 years of age must take place in a room with a glass window or door so that a person stationed outside the room may see into the room during the session. Ministry staff may request another person to be present during the pastoral care session.

This policy will be explained as necessary to those seeking pastoral care.

If you would like to meet with one of our ministers or if you or a loved one is hospitalized, please contact the church office at 972-727-8241.