



Pastoral Counseling Policy

To: Friends and Members of Resurrection
Policy Author: Congregational Council
Adopted on or Effective Date: July 1, 2001

Purpose: Provide guidelines to protect and serve both those seeking pastoral counseling and the RLC Pastors offering their counsel.

1. One RLC Pastor shall be designated as the primary Pastoral Counselor (e.g. Pastor who provides majority of pastoral care). This shall be communicated to the congregation.
2. The person(s) requesting counsel shall be referred to an appropriate professional counselor after first, second, or at most third counseling session with Pastoral Counselor. A referral list of professional counselors shall be maintained by the Pastoral Counselor and be made available to the executive council.
3. Counseling shall adhere to the Loyalty and Creating Sanctuary (e.g. window in door or open door during session, other staff person(s) in office during session, youth accompanied by another adult or open door during session, etc.) Policies.
4. Pastoral Counselor shall request executive council approval for extension beyond two counseling sessions.
5. Pastoral Counselor shall obtain approval prior to counseling non-members.
6. Executive council approval shall be obtained prior to the counseling session, if a Pastor other than the primary Pastoral Counselor supports counseling request.

Note: This policy supercedes the position statement for pastoral counseling approved by executive council on May 6, 1997.