

The Pastoral Care Module

- How does pastoral care relate to God's action in the world?
- What does good pastoral care involve?
- What is not included in pastoral care?
- How do we establish boundaries of confidentiality, accountability and personal competence?
- What are the limits of 'routine' pastoral care and when do we involve others?
- How can we best help others at significant moments in life, such as births, marriages and deaths?
- What is needed at a time of crisis?
- What long-term commitment do we make in caring for others?
- How do we shape pastoral care for older people?
- How can we help and mediate in times of conflict?
- What important safeguards should we establish when working with those who are vulnerable and what are our legal responsibilities?
- What support can we offer those with mental health issues?
- How does pastoral care relate to the whole life and mission of the Church?

Caring for others has always been at the heart of church life and has always been expressed by many different people: by ministers, by pastoral care teams set apart and organised for this purpose, by many individuals in natural and spontaneous ways. In many ways the whole church is involved in pastoral care. But what exactly are our aims in offering pastoral care to others within and without the church, and how do our actions today relate back to what we read in the Bible, particularly the life, death and resurrection of Jesus?

There have always been those within the church who have naturally cared for others, whom we recognise have particular gifts of listening and discernment. Others may sense that God is calling them to be more involved in pastoral care, but feel they are not fully equipped for situations they may encounter. There are important skills that can be learnt and continually developed, and important principles that can guide us in this area.

This module will explore both the 'why' and the 'how' of pastoral care so that we will be better equipped to serve God and each other.

A FOOTSTEPS PATHWAY COURSE

Pastoral Care



Module Outline

Aims

The aims of this module are:

- To offer a foundational understanding of pastoral care and its role within the church
- To develop essential skills in caring for others.

Description

This module introduces pastoral care as a fundamental aspect of church life, and considers how caring for others relates both to the great biblical themes, such as creation and salvation, and to the wider life and mission of the local church. It offers insights into the difficult and complex situations that we encounter and draws on the best of secular thinking about care and counselling. Alongside offering new insights into the Bible, ourselves and the issues others may encounter, this module will help develop the skills needed to care effectively and appropriately in a whole range of contexts.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module participants should be able to demonstrate:

- An ability to relate the practice of pastoral care to the teaching of the Bible and the whole life of the Church.
- A greater understanding of both themselves and other people and the pastoral situations they may face.
- The understanding and insight to recognise appropriate models of pastoral care within church life.
- An ability to care for others with greater insight and confidence.

Optional Assignment

You can develop your studies further by completing assignments. These are optional, unless you are doing the course as part of recognition as a lay leader, in which case they are required.

Programme

These are the main areas which will be covered over 2 Saturdays

An Introduction to Pastoral Care

What is good pastoral care?
Pastoral Care and the Bible

Essential Skills

Listening to others
Recognising boundaries

From Cradle to Grave [1]

Families and growing older

From Cradle to Grave [2]

Tough Times
Illness and bereavement

Caring for the Vulnerable

Mental health and physical disabilities
Safeguarding issues

Pastoral Care and the Whole Church

Organising and overseeing
pastoral care teams
Engaging with worship and mission