



PURSuing THE "GREATER THINGS" OF  
CHRIST'S ASCENDED MINISTRY TODAY!  
(JOHN 14:12)

Christian Counseling Center

New Haven, Connecticut

## PLAN AND CORE COMMITMENTS

### Introduction

Christ Presbyterian Church, New Haven, CT ("CPC") is establishing a church-based counseling center (or the "Center") to provide Christ centered, holistic counseling to people of all faiths and none in the greater New Haven area Consistent with the Core Commitments described below.

### The Plan

The CPC church-based counseling center will provide an explicitly holistic Christian approach to emotional and social healing which involves therapy, psychiatric and social care as needed for:

- Youth: The Center will provide children and adolescents with appropriate therapy to seek healing with such issues as divorce, sexual and physical abuse, eating disorders and substance abuse.
- Marriage and Family: The Center will provide marriage and family counseling as couples face issues of conflict, intimacy, trust, communication and sexuality.
- Pre-marriage: The Center's programs will be designed to help couples recognize the strengths in their relationship as well as explore areas for development.
- Individuals: The Center seeks to bring restoration and freedom through appropriate therapy in the context of the Gospel for individuals experiencing a number of issues including addiction, depression, abuse and co-dependency. We seek professionally trained counselors, licensed therapists and pastors who will engage a wide variety of counseling needs. There are times when medications are critically important for the treatment of a mental health need. When that is necessary the Counseling Center will provide a referral to appropriate social services and/or mental health providers.

## Core Commitments\*

Notwithstanding our high regard for that kind of wisdom that may be derived from the light of nature and providence, we are committed to the sufficiency of Holy Scripture as contained in the Old and New Testaments (not including what is commonly called the Apocrypha) as our only divinely inspired rule of Christian faith and practice unto which nothing is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit or human traditions (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:19-21, Heb. 1:1).

Whereas the Holy Scriptures are our only infallible rule of faith and practice, we affirm the church's responsibility to develop an otherwise fallible corporate consensus, or "creed," as to what the scriptures principally teach for the purpose of preserving the Apostolic faith and serving as the basis for Christian unity in mission (2 Tim. 1:13, 2:2, Acts 20:28, Phil. 1:27, Eph. 4:1-4, 13). For our (ECEP) purpose of forming partnerships in ministry and as a basis for building a missional consensus,

1) We are committed to the ecumenical tenants of Christian faith as reflected in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds:

### *The Nicene Creed*

*I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.*

*Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.*

*And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*



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2) We are committed to a Christ centered gospel of sovereign grace wherein God is glorified in all things through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:11). Notwithstanding our commitment to a holistic gospel as pertaining to both the outward and inward restoration of human life, this means that human flourishing begins and ends with being united to Christ by faith alone, faith itself being a free gift of God's grace by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:1-10). Creeds representing a holistic and Christ centered vision for salvation and ministry include: Westminster Confession of Faith, Thirty-Nine Articles of Faith, Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, etc.

3) We are committed to the visible and local church as uniquely ordained by God as an essential element of the gospel in her ministry of word, sacrament and communal oversight and organization. Notwithstanding God's kingdom activity outside of the visible church, this means that holistic restoration and salvation will necessarily include the ministry of the church such that the Center will seek to partner with and support local churches whenever possible as to in no way supplant the local church in her mission to make disciples of Christ (Eph. 2:19-21).

*\* While the Center subscribes to these commitments, it is the vision of the Center to service those people of all faiths and none, and to utilize social and medical services by those who do not necessary subscribe to the full set of commitments.*