

Referral Guidelines for Prayer Teams and Small Group Leaders

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Introduction

The role of a prayer team member and/or small group leader is to act as an extension of the pastoral staff. Your role is to create a safe place for the person seeking help, to respect the person, to maintain confidences, and to support spiritual growth. The primary tools to be used are the classic spiritual disciplines or the common means of Grace given to us by the Lord (i.e., bible, prayer, confession, fellowship, singing, Lord's Table and Baptism).

There are limits to your role. You are not expected to be a trained counselor or therapist. There is an understanding that you have other biblically mandated tasks (family, church, vocation) which limit the amount of time and energy you can expend. At any point you can ask for help!

Referral Guidelines

In your role, please refer to the pastoral staff or Pastor Ed situations which are described specifically or approach one the eight referral guidelines.

1. There has been no progress after two months.
2. The person has been depressed for more than two months.
3. The person is not in touch with reality or has disordered thinking.
4. The person cannot perform daily activities and/or is recovering from surgery/hospitalization.
5. Depending on the degree of severity or if no progress:
 - Mood and emotions
 - Behaviors (sex, eating, sleeping, compulsions)
 - Substance Abuse
 - Distorted view of self
 - Loss or trauma
 - Marriage Problems
 - Financial Issues (If you are asked for money consult with the pastoral staff or Pastor Ed)
6. Child, Spousal, or Elder Abuse.
7. Suicidal – Call “911” if the person has communicated an immediate intent to kill themselves or intends to kill or harm others. Refer all conversations of this nature to the pastoral staff or Pastor Ed.
8. You cannot understand the source of the problem, you are beginning to feel responsible for the person's actions, or if you are having difficulty keeping solid boundaries.

Note: The Chelmsford Community Resource Guide provides many helpful resources as well as 1-800 numbers for crisis or abuse prevention and reporting.

<https://www.townofchelmsford.us/DocumentCenter/View/14054/elenas-resource-flier-2022R>.