



LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHAPEL

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SHEPHERDING MINISTRY LCC

“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (1 Peter 5:1-4).

Dear Lakeside Family Member(s),

You are a cherished and valuable member(s) of the family at Lakeside Community Chapel. As part of the body of Christ, it is our desire and privilege to shepherd (you / you and your family) to the best of our ability. Our goal is to tend to the welfare of all our members by watching over, nurturing, guiding and protecting them. To achieve this goal, Lakeside has implemented *Shepherding Teams* whose objective is to intentionally and regularly reach every family/individual household at least once a month so as to minister to all of our members and to encourage spiritual growth.

Currently, there are twelve Shepherding Teams at LCC and each team includes 1 elder, 1 deacon, and at least four team members selected from our congregation. Each household

has been assigned to a shepherding team. We will inform each household as to which shepherding team will be reaching out to them.

WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT

A passionate desire on the part of our shepherding teams to:

1. Contact you at least once a month.

- You can expect that we will be contacting you at least once a month. Usually this will be done by phone, but our desire is also to make personal visits as time and circumstances permit.
- More times than not, it will be our shepherding team members that will be making our regular monthly contacts. This is a blessed delegation because elders and deacons alone cannot keep up regular contacts due to the size of our congregation. However elders and deacons will be in close contact with all the team members assigned to them, and they too, will contact you as time permits, or when there are needs or circumstances which require elder involvement.

2. To be accessible to you and to “do life” with you.

successfully, we must all pull together. In the midst of our diversity, the Lord has brought us together in unity. I pray that our efforts to shepherd you and your family will result in the Good Shepherd working in and through you for the glory of God and the good of His people.

- Our greatest unity comes from that which is internal, not external. Our desire is to honestly assess where you are spiritually and how we can help you to grow in grace and in progressive sanctification.
- Our desire is to establish relationships where there is appropriate biblical transparency.

4. Expect to be encouraged towards a deep connectedness within the body of Christ.

- Seek to use your grace gifts in service to the body of Christ, so as to help the church grow spiritually and to be built up in love.
- Be open to discuss how you, as a part of the body, can contribute so as to help the church function properly.
- Understand that the church functions because we're all called to be love "contributors" not just love "consumers." Thus as you are shepherded, seek to speak the truth in love and live the truth in love thus helping the church to be built up in love.

CONCLUSION

It is our sincere desire to shepherd the flock of God well here at LCC. It is our goal to make sure every individual/family is known personally, is being fed and nurtured in the Word of God, is being led into practical godliness, and is protected from both physical and spiritual harm. To do this

- Our goal in shepherding is not simply to take attendance or maintain minimal maintenance, but to truly minister to you and your family.
- To the best of our ability, we want to "do life" with you. We want to get to know you personally. It is our privilege to care for you and your family, and we want all our families to know they are being cared for.
- What does "doing life" with you mean? It means we want to keep a spiritual pulse on how your doing in your walk with Christ. Our goal is to love you with a godly love so as to provoke heart changes, and to affirm, encourage, and challenge you towards greater Christ-likeness.
- Our fervent prayer is that our efforts will promote greater spiritual intimacy and fellowship, greater spiritual maturity, and greater spiritual involvement within the body of Christ.
- It is our desire to regularly pray for you! We want to stay current with you in times of blessings and in times of trials. We want to know how to pray for you, specifically and personally.
- Overall, our desire is to encourage holistic spiritual vitality!

3. To maintain godly accountability

- Biblical accountability is a blessing. It is positive reinforcement designed to work towards the good of those within the body of Christ.

- In practical terms, godly accountability is beneficial for you and your family because it allows the elders of the church to effectively watch over your souls.
- The desire here is to know you personally; to make sure you are being nurtured from the Word of God, to lead you by example, and to protect you from harm, both physically and spiritually.
- Unfortunately, many people see accountability as being intrusive! But God intended it to be inclusive! We all need accountability, and those contacting you are doing so out of a true desire for your good; not simply out of duty!

HOW SHOULD YOU RESPOND?

Effective shepherding is a cooperative effort! Therefore, there are some things you should know which will greatly help us shepherd you and your family most effectively.

1. Expect to be contacted at least once a month!

- Joyfully seek to make yourself available and know that those contacting you seek to nurture you, not nag you; to admonish and encourage you, not to antagonize or discourage you.
- Remember that our intimate fellowship together and our mutual accountability is the biblical norm as members of the body of Christ.

2. Be deliberate in your communication with those shepherding you.

- Shepherding goes beyond superfluous conversation. Our desire is to speak the truth in love with one another. We want to know how you are doing, not only in your growth in doctrinal understanding, but also in your experiential knowledge as you walk with Christ. Thus we desire to have you share openly and honestly about how you are doing.
- Help us to know how we can best minister to you. We care about how God is blessing you as well as what concerns or questions you may have.
- You will get the most out of shepherding if you are proactive and not reactive in your communication with us. We want to encourage you to communicate with us whenever you feel you have needs or circumstances that we can help you with. Many Christians “suffer in silence.” We all need each other, so let us know when you have a ministry need!

3. Help us to assess how we can help you and your family to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.

- The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:15b that we are “*. . . to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.*”