

Equipping Lay Caregivers

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I. DEFINITION OF MINISTRY

“Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God”—Warren Wiersbe

“Ministry is using whatever God has given me to serve Him and the needs of others.”—Rick Warren

II. PRIORITIES OF MINISTRY—GOD, OTHER BELIEVERS, UNBELIEVERS

III. CONTEXT OF MINISTRY

- A. Ephesians 1:20-23 gives us the basis for the *teaching* of the body of Christ.
- B. Ephesians 4:11-13 gives us the basis for the *organization* of the body of Christ.
- C. Before believers were deployed for body-ministry, the church grew by *addition* (Acts 2:47).
- D. After believers were identified to care for the needs of the body, the church grew by *multiplication* (Acts 6:1-7).

IV. MANDATE OF “LAY” MINISTRY

- A. You have been *created* for ministry (Ephesians 2:10).
- B. You have been *saved* for ministry (2 Timothy 1:9).
- C. You have been *called* into ministry (Galatians 1:15; Ephesians 4:1; 1 Peter 2:9).
- D. You have been *gifted* for ministry (1 Peter 4:10).
- E. You have been *authorized* for ministry (Matthew 28:18, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:20).
- F. You have been *commanded* to minister (Matthew 20:28; Colossians 4:17).
- G. You have been *prepared* for ministry (Ephesians 4:11, 12).
- H. The church *needs* your ministry (1 Corinthians 12:27; Matthew 9:36, 37).
- I. You are *accountable* for your ministry (Romans 14:12; Matthew 25:14-30).
- J. You will be *rewarded* for your ministry (Colossians 3:23, 24; Matthew 25:23).

V. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER LAY PASTOR MINISTRY; A MODEL IN PROCESS

A. Why have a Lay Pastor Ministry?

We have established the Lay Pastor ministry in order to develop manageable spans of

care, providing a structure that pastors the whole church, reaching both those who participate in small groups and those who do not. As our church increases in size, our care delivery system will continually become smaller and more personalized. We value the personal touch in ministry. The Lay Pastor ministry is a perfect example of the “Jethro Principle” (Exodus 18) in action.

B. Who is the Lay Pastor?

The Lay Pastor is one who has the pastoral gift(s), who is trained and released to do the work of pastoring while still being employed in full-time secular work, and who is not necessarily ordained as an elder.

C. Lay Pastor Qualifications and Responsibilities

1. The lay pastor candidate must:

- Be born again
- Demonstrate evidence of a mature, Spirit-filled life
- Have a good reputation
- Be a member of Christians Life Center
- Be a faithful giver
- Be in agreement with the vision, structure, and purpose of Christian Life Center
- Be able to work in a team context

2. Lay pastor responsibilities:

Pastoral oversight of about 10 Christian Life Center families and/or single adults with responsibilities that will include:

- Establish and maintain relationships
- Each year have three or four contacts with each (card, call, or “coffee”; that is, a scheduled face-to-face contact)
- First-line crisis intervention
- Basic helping as needed, including referral to appropriate professionals
- Intercession
- General church communication
- Hospital visitation
- Funeral support
- Assimilation of new people
- Simple, regular reports to team leader
- Attend monthly and other training and informational meetings
- Serve for one year with unlimited re-appointment available based on an annual interview with the team leader

D. Lay Pastor Training

Lay Pastor training centers around the Lay Pastor Manual which includes material on Helping Basics, Helping in a Crisis, Scriptures for Common Problems, Making a

Referral, Guidelines for Hospital Visitation, Funeral Support, Evangelism Basics, Crucial Steps for New Believers, Who to See About What at Christian Life Center, What to do When you Encounter Criticism, Current Referral Information, Family Information Forms, and Report Forms.

- A copy of this manual is available for \$10 from Christian Life Center, 716 N. 40th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98908; Phone: 509-248-2015 (ask for Brenda).
- Additional resources on Lay Pastor Ministries are available from BT Publishing, 9200 NE Fremont Portland, Oregon 97220 (for a free catalog call 1-800-777-6057) or check www.btpublishing.com.

What I'd do differently now that I know better: