

GEORGETOWN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Date _____

Dear _____

We are again asking members of our congregation to consider becoming Pastoral Care Workers. At a recent Pastoral Council meeting, your name came forward as someone who we feel may be able to serve in this capacity. As you make a decision regarding this call in your life, it might be helpful for you to know what it is that you may be asked to do.

Our church is divided into districts of about 40 households. Each district is served by an elder and a deacon who are called to care for those households. Elders and deacons develop relationships with members of their district, pray for them and visit them. Their task is to encourage and challenge members of the congregation in their faith, to provide support for them when they are burdened and to rejoice with them when they rejoice. The work of our elders and deacons is significant, both because their work enables us to grow spiritually and because it takes a lot of time and commitment. We are thankful for their efforts.

Our elders and deacons cannot do their task alone, and this is why we have pastoral care workers. Pastoral care workers are called to work in a team with the elder and deacon of their assigned district and assist them in their work.

Following are some ways that pastoral workers could assist the elders and deacons:

- Making visits to the homes of members of the congregation to provide encouragement and support and to strengthen the link between the members of the congregation and the body of Christ.
- Continuing care for members in the district who are sick, who are struggling with family issues, who are without work, and who may be burdened in other ways through visits and prayer.
- Encourage those struggling with their faith.
- Providing encouragement to youth and/or seniors.
- Helping new members find their way around the church and community.

We know that few people are gifted to serve in all of these ways, but perhaps you are gifted to help in one or more of these ways.

In order to maintain a healthy congregation, we must be a healthy community. Pastoral care workers take on some of the tasks that can make our church healthier.

We will expect the elders to keep communication lines open between themselves, pastoral workers, and deacons so that the needs of the district will be met. That may involve one or several meetings through the course of the year to identify specific needs in the district. From time to time the elder or deacon may call upon a pastoral care worker to make a much-needed visit or to walk beside a family or individual in a difficult time.

Please consider this opportunity to serve our church so that the body of Christ continues to be healthy. Your elder will be contacting you in a week or so to know your answer to this call.

In Christ's Service,
The Pastoral Council of Georgetown CRC