

**Counseling Policy**  
**Adopted by the Session, February 15, 2021**  
**Revised February 26, 2022**

**Policy and Process**

1. When care/counseling needs arise for our members, they will be encouraged to speak first with their shepherd-elder. *If the member is a female and would prefer speaking first to another female, she may contact Paula Miles, Women's Ministry Director, for referral to a member of the Women's Ministry Counseling Team.* The member will then be encouraged to speak with a CPC pastor of their choosing.
2. The purpose of encouraging the member to meet with a pastor is three-fold. First, doing so enables the pastor, along with the elder, to care for the flock over which they both have a responsibility. Second, it affords the pastor the privilege of examining with the member what the Scriptures have to say about their particular struggle. Third, if advanced counseling is necessary, the pastor, having met with the member, will be better prepared to refer the member to an appropriate counselor.
3. At the present time, payment for advanced counseling is available only for members of CPC.
4. The counselor providing advanced counseling must be approved by the session of CPC. He/she must be a Christ-follower who bases his/her counseling method on the Word of God, our only rule of faith and practice, and one of our core values at CPC.
5. CPC will remit payment to the counselor or reimburse the CPC member at a rate up to \$90.00 per session.
6. The number of subsidized counseling sessions that a member may receive from a professional counselor is six (6). If a request is made to extend the number of sessions, the request must be made by the counselor and approved by the referring pastor and elder. The maximum number of sessions to be paid by CPC in any given year will be twelve (12).
7. The counselor providing advanced counseling and receiving payment for services agrees to provide the referring pastor with a final report once the counseling arrangement has ended.