

Planning Document



THE CHURCH CARES
CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO NEED HOPE WITH PEOPLE WHO HELP

Date:	MM/DD/YYYY
Prepared by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write a name here• Add more as needed

The Church Cares Ministry

How will we implement The Church Cares Ministry at our Church? This is a ministry of listening and helping within individual and group contexts.

Planning Part A

Part A:

TCC Champion-selection and Church Integration

Who will be the primary leader of the ministry, and how does it fit within our larger church mission, vision, and current ministries?

Church champion & developer (Name/s of people to lead the ministry):

Where and when will the ministry meetings take place and what boundaries do you want to put on meeting places? (online meetings; in your building; at a specific night when the building is available; in public spaces; in homes)

How does it fit with Mission?	How it's not an easy fit
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Part B: Who are we ministering to?

Create a list of people within and affiliated with your church that you would like to open The Church Cares ministry. Some churches start with only internal ministry until they are able to get the ministry moving in a healthy direction. But with an eye towards affiliated ministries like food pantries, neighborhood member care, missionary work, & those who call in for help.

Within the Church	Affiliated Ministries
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Prevention of helper burnout is an essential task of the ministry leader. If help-seekers with emergency-level needs and high distress are included in the ministry too often or paired with ill-prepared helpers, this can lead to burnout. How will our church screen help-seekers for this ministry?

Who will do the screening?

The Church Cares offers templates for this at <https://www.thechurchcares.com/the-training-process>

What are our community resources to refer emergency-level and super-high distress help seekers to? Who will create a list of resources? The Church Cares has some national resources (USA) and ideas for creating your local list at <https://www.thechurchcares.com/the-training-process>

Part C:

Who are the Church Cares listener-helpers?

Consider what kind of person or people you need in this ministry?

Recommendations: Those known within the church for a while, mature in the faith, personally stable, able to sit with distress, not someone known to gossip. Perhaps people who have been through difficult seasons of struggle and could share their experiences with others. What else? Begin a list of people you will approach to participate.

Will you do a screening meeting, or application to become a helper?

The Church Cares offers templates for Helpers at <https://www.thechurchcares.com/the-training-process>

How will you say “not right now” for those interested, but not suited for the ministry?

Helpers register with The Church Cares: www.thechurchcares.com

Part D:

How do I start training helpers?

7-cup training tool for helpers online. How to send to helpers? How to encourage helpers actually to do it?

Four-hour introductory training for certificate. When to do?

Practice assignments: Partner with someone in the training to practice within 2 weeks

First assignment: Find low-intensity seekers willing to be helped

Later assignments: Open to church body/ community seekers

Part E:

Ongoing support and training for helpers

Will you do a monthly (online) meeting with helpers to support and train?

Will you (or someone) be available for one-on-one coaching of helpers stuck in difficult situations?

Part F:**Matching Help-seekers to Helpers in Individual Care**

How will you let your church/ community know about The Church Cares ministry?

What will be your method to sign up? How can pastors and church leaders sign people up when they bring issues or concerns to them?

Once screened, who will assign help-seekers with helpers?

Do we need/want any communication back to the champion about the meetings?

How will the helpers let the champion know their availability to pick up a new help-seeker?

Part G:**Group-level care**

What group-level care do you already provide in your church and what new ministries do you want to provide? Be creative to include unofficial ministries (e.g., some choirs or Bible study groups provide extensive support and prayer for each other and would be an excellent group to encourage attending).

Review your specific “bucket” group ministries (grief, teens, general emotional distress, habits, substances, trauma, marriage and family). Will you include ministries in neighboring sister churches?

What we have now	What we plan to have within a year

Recommendation

Create a written document about the options you think will work in your church context. Include why it's the most logical of the options and why the approvers should consider it. Share it with your approvers within your church system.

Approval

Approvers	Part A	Part B	Part C,D,E,F	Part G	Target Date
Write the approver's name	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	MM/DD/YY