

POLICY ON COUNSELING PEOPLE FROM OTHER CHURCHES

In the event that a counselor from Cornerstone Church is requested to counsel a member from another church they may agree to do so following these procedures:

- 1) The counselor should request a pastor, elder, staff, or church leader from the counselee's church to attend the counseling session with the counselee.
 - a. The purpose of this is to insure the other church that Cornerstone Church is trying to keep the counselee accountable to their local church as well as allow the local shepherds to continue the shepherding process.
 - b. This is also done so that if the counselee's pastor or church is not familiar with biblical counseling the leader attending counseling can be trained along with the counselee.
 - c. Doing so protects the counselor and Cornerstone Church from false accusations from the counselee.

- 2) If the pastor, elder, staff, or church leader from the counselee's church is not able or is unwilling to join the counseling session, the counselor of Cornerstone Church may still meet with the counselee.
 - a. Counseling is to be done under the authority of local church leadership. If there is no leadership from the counselee's church it is unfaithful of Cornerstone Church to be shepherding someone else's flock (1 Peter 5:2). The counselor will require that the counselee start attending Cornerstone Church to continue with counseling.
 - b. The counselor will also recommend that the counselee leave their current church and join Cornerstone Church if it is abundantly clear, that the counselee's local church has serious doctrinal error in writing and/or in practice.
 - c. The maximum amount of counseling sessions will be no more than two (2) if there is no leadership from the other church and the counselee is not attending Cornerstone Church (exceptions can be made depending on circumstances). The counselor has the right to decline counseling and is not required to meet with anyone inside or outside of Cornerstone Church.