

## Caring Ministry

As the church, it is our desire to provide prayer, support, and care for our members when they are going through some of life's difficult and exciting seasons. These seasons of life include, but aren't limited to, surgeries, childbirth, the death of a friend or loved one, depression/anxiety etc. It is during these seasons that many of us need extra support and help. The ways that Fairview helps includes, but isn't limited to, financial help, prayer, meals, phone calls, visits, etc.

Many times, when someone is going through a difficult season, he/she would like to talk with "the pastor" or have "the pastor" visit him/her. Although the pastor enjoys doing this, it is physically impossible for the pastor or even the pastors of Fairview Missionary Church to make all these visits and phone calls while continuing to perform all of his/her other responsibilities. Due to this impossibility, and our desire that no one "falls through the cracks," we are improving our Caring Ministry by adding trained Lay People to the team of those who will provide support.

What does this mean? The Leadership Team and staff of Fairview Missionary Church have put together a list of male and female congregation members we believe have the gift of caring. When you call, email, or text the church or a pastor for prayer, support and care we will connect you with one of these individuals or a pastor. This individual or pastor will then contact you to pray or set up a time to call or get together. This individual will walk with you through this season of life with prayer, support, and love. This might just be a one-time prayer before a surgery, or it might be a year-long relationship as you work through anxiety and depression.

There will still be times and situations where a pastor from Fairview will pray with you, visit you and care for you. There will also be times when a pastor might be asked to help, or pray over a difficult situation, when requested by either the person giving or receiving care.

We believe this is what it means to be the church. We carry each others' burdens. We walk with each other. We pray for each other. We support each other. This is not only done in a pastor/lay person relationship, but it also takes place in a lay person/lay person relationship.

The pastoral staff of Fairview Missionary Church may still reach out to you, pray with you, or walk with you through a difficult season. The pastoral staff will also stay in communication with our Lay Leaders as they minister to others. Pastors will still provide counseling and can be contacted to set up meetings with congregation members. We simply want to increase our ability to care for our people well. We believe this new model will help us accomplish that goal.

## Caring Lay People Requirements

- Have a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Active member of Fairview
- Be willing to contact members and pray over the phone, email, or in-person (In-person and the phone are best).
- Possibly drive to hospital to visit or pray with someone.
- Some situations may require more than just one phone call or visit. If you are unwilling to do that please let us know.
- Kind, Gentle, Loving spirit
- Able to hold confidentiality
- Good listener
- Attend training events
- Friendly personality
- Teachable
- Able to fill out Caring information on Google Sheets

This will be a two-year agreement. You may go months without being contacted and then have a 3-week period where you are called multiple times. This all depends on the lives of our members and what is going on.

The individuals requesting care will still contact the church initially and then the church would connect with you so that you could contact the person requesting care. If you are contacted and don't feel comfortable with the specific request or person, you can decline anytime.