

Pastoral Care

Greg Powell | Castlegar United Church | June 2020

1.

What is Pastoral Care?



What is pastoral care?

- ▣ Support
- ▣ Care for others
- ▣ Care for our congregation and beyond
- ▣ Empathy
- ▣ Support beyond regular Sunday worship
- ▣



Authentic community is the
"medicine" our society needs.

2.

Why does the church offer pastoral care?



Why does the church offer pastoral care?

- ▣ We're social beings
 - We need relationship and communication
 - We're following Jesus' teachings
 - Love your neighbour
 - When two or three are gathered...
 - Do unto others...
 - Healing narratives
- ▣ Sharing love, spirituality
- ▣ Our presence is a reminder of God's



3.

When should we offer
pastoral care?

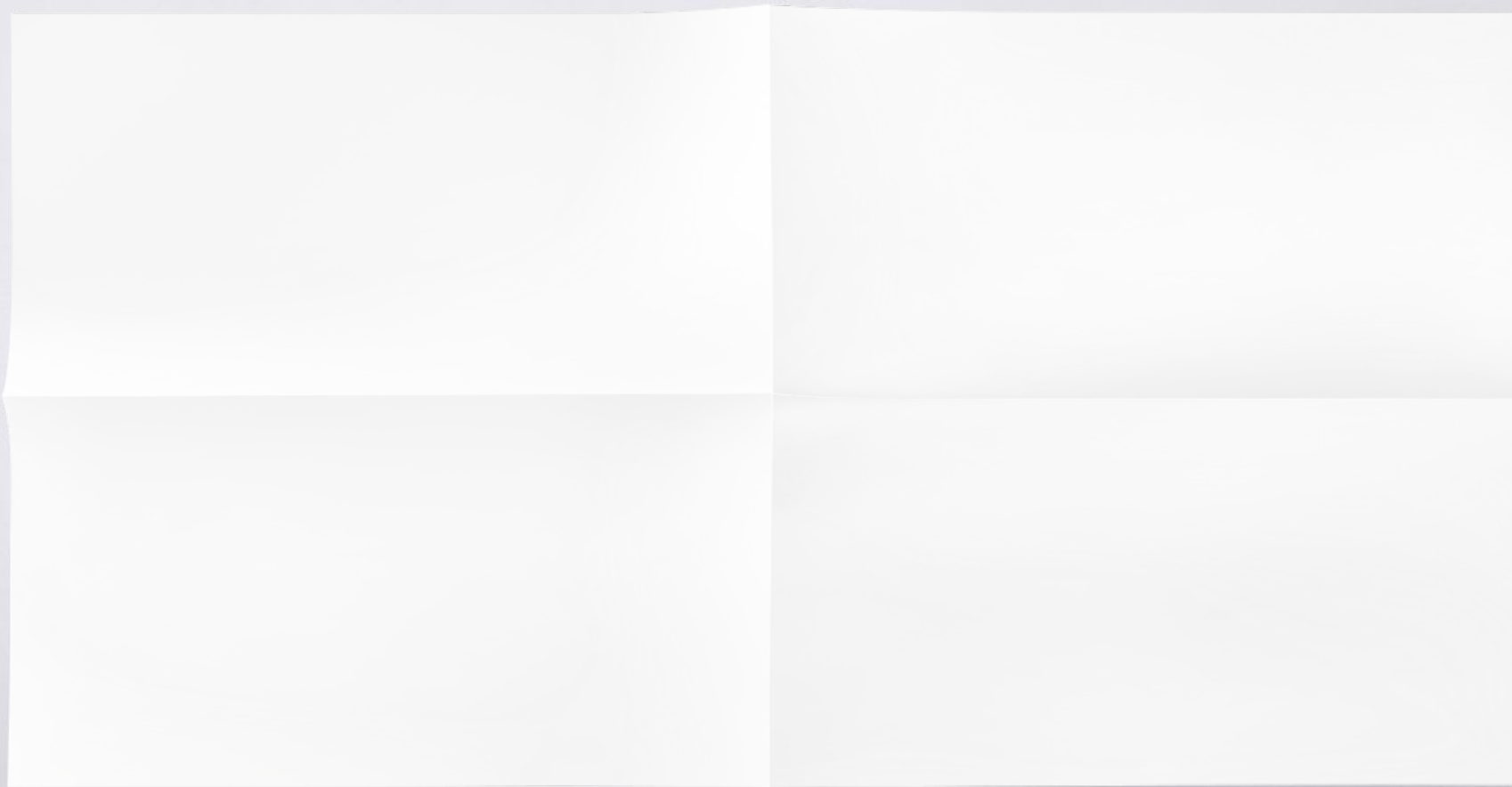
When should we offer pastoral care?

- ▣ Illness
- ▣ Death
- ▣ Crisis times
 - Pandemic
- ▣ Loss of family members
- ▣ Divorce
- ▣ Affirming, reminder of safe place
- ▣ Unknown, worry (eg. future -- pandemic, church community)
- ▣ Doubt, unbelief

4.

Consider an experience
of pastoral care:

What made it
positive/negative?



Conditions for success

- ▣ Minister took under his wing
 - Go for walks
 - Noticed
 - Sense of humour
- ▣ Community thing
- ▣ Sympathy, care for situation
- ▣ Non-judgemental
- ▣ Smile, positive greeting
- ▣ Repetition, continuation
- ▣ Time, commitment

Conditions for failure

- ❑ Lifetime commitment
- ❑ Sense of invisibility
- ❑ Lack of awareness of our impact
- ❑ Adding to the worry (OMG!)
- ❑ Assumptions
- ❑ Forgetfulness
- ❑ Making it about me
- ❑ Not listening

Other points to consider

Boundaries

You may find yourself in a position of power by virtue of offering care -- that carries responsibilities.

Confidentiality

Referring

You may need to refer to someone with more or different training.

Duty to report

“If you think a child or youth under 19 years of age is being abused or neglected, you have the legal duty to report your concern to a child welfare worker.

Phone 1 800 663-9122 at any time of the day or night.”

Other things to consider

Theology matters

Be authentic.

Be mindful of the tradition.

Be careful to listen, allow moments of silence

Holding hands - touch

Identify the hat you're wearing -- as a friend, as a pastoral care team member

Prayer matters

Prayer isn't the cure, but it sure can heal.

Scenarios



Take a few moments to consider your response to these situations.

What would you say?

What would you do?

What resources would you need or want?



Questions or reflections?