

# CARING AND CARED FOR

A MULTI-TIERED, PARTNERSHIP-BASED  
APPROACH TO PASTORAL CARE  
*OR*  
BEING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

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N.H. UCC Prepared to Serve Conference  
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# REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE

*Psalm 8:3-5*

When I look at the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou has established;

What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?

Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor.

# PASTORAL CARE: SOME QUESTIONS

- What is pastoral care?
- Why offer pastoral care?
- Who needs pastoral care?
- Who should provide pastoral care?

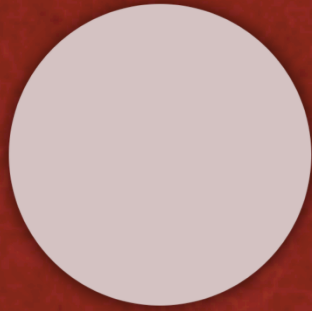
# PASTORAL CARE: SOME ASSUMPTIONS

- Pastoral care is a vocational activity, i.e., it is something to which we are called
- Pastoral care should not be something done only by the pastor
- Pastoral care can be a joy to provide – but it can also be demanding
- Pastoral care is fundamental to the life of the Christian community
- Different situations require different types of pastoral care

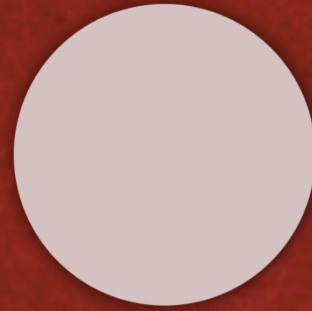
# WHAT IS A MULTI-TIERED APPROACH?

- A multi-tiered approach recognizes that different situations require different kinds and levels of pastoral care
- Situations might be:
  - Critical
  - Chronic
  - Sad
  - Joyful
- Situations might involve:
  - Death
  - Illness
  - Job loss
  - Pregnancy
  - Other ...

# WHO IS INVOLVED?



Pastor



Laity



# HOW ARE THE LAITY ORGANIZED?

At First Congregational Church of Lebanon ...

- Diaconate
- Called to Care/C2C
- Prayer Team
- Ad Hoc

# WHO DOES WHAT?

- Pastor – Through visits, consultations and regular communication, provides intensive pastoral care, deals directly with crisis situations in addition to general care
- Diaconate – responsible for overall spiritual welfare of fellow parishioners
- C2C – provides ongoing pastoral care through visits, prayers, calls, and emails to individuals on C2C and TLC lists
- Prayer Team – prays for those on C2C list in addition to others brought to their attention
- Ad Hoc – responds to unique situations as necessary (e.g. Hurricane Irene)



# COMMUNICATION IS KEY!



# C2C: WHO'S ON THE LIST?

- People in crisis situation, usually health-related
- People with ongoing, chronic condition
- Families approaching death of a loved one

# C2C: WHAT DOES IT DO?

- Visit, call, email, send cards to people on C2C list
- Prepare meals when appropriate
- Take people to doctor, on errands, as appropriate

# THE TLC LIST

- For those who have come off the C2C list or might be added at a future date
- Usually elderly members of congregation
- Good way to anticipate situations requiring more intensive pastoral care

# ORGANIZATION

- C2C has coordinator, who confers on a regular basis with the pastor
- Each of the ten members is “on call” for one week
- Cultivate leadership – serving as coordinator is rewarding but can be draining
- At FCC, C2C is a responsibility of the Diaconate – C2C and Deacons should communicate regularly

# PRAYER TEAM

- Works in conjunction with and in addition to C2C
- Prayer concerns can be offered by anyone in the congregation or wider community

# ADDITIONAL APPROACHES

- Community partnerships
- Parish Nurse
- Other ...

# ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Confidentiality
- Care for care givers
- Burnout