

# Statements of Affirmations, Commitments and Accountability

## Spiritual Care Process Perimeter Church

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The spiritual care process begins by acknowledgement of what the bible says, what you are being asked to commit to and what the church will attempt to do as we all seek to glorify God and move towards peace.

This is a lengthy document but we believe it will help to set the stage for good communication. We encourage you to spend some time in the Bible. Before you check each box, please read the passages and ask the Lord to show you truth. Once you have read and checked the boxes, please initial each page and bring the completed document to your first meeting with the Spiritual Care Team. Keep a copy for yourself.

### 1. What the Bible says:

#### A. Regarding **Marriage:**

- Marriage is a DIVINE INSTITUTION (Genesis 2:18-25)
- Marriage is to be regulated by DIVINE INSTRUCTIONS (Psalms 127:1)
- Marriage is DIVINE ILLUSTRATION (Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 3:8, Hosea 2:19-20, Ephesians 5:22-32)
- Marriage is A COVENANT (Malachi 2:14)
- Marriage is a WHOLE PERSON COMMITMENT (Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 7:3-4, Matthew 19:6, Romans 7:2-3, 1 Corinthians 7:39)

#### B. Regarding **Husbands and Wives:**

- 1 Corinthians 7:32-34 – **Both** are to consider ways to please each other.
- Genesis 2:18 – The **wife** is created as a suitable helper.
- Ephesians 5:24 – The **wife** is to be subject to her husband.
- Ephesians 5:25 – The **husband** is to give himself up for his wife.
- 1 Peter 3:7 – The **husband** is to live with his wife with understanding.

- 1 Peter 3:7 – *The **husband** is to give his wife honor.*
- 1 Timothy 5:8 – *The **husband** is to provide for his family.*
- Ephesians 5:33 – *The **wife** is to be respectful toward her husband*
- Ephesians 5:21 – ***Both** are to submit to the other. (Also 1 Peter 5:5)*

**C. When love appears, it looks like this:**

**When Christ’s love appears through us, it:** (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is patient                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Is kind                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is not jealous                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Does not brag                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is not arrogant                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Does not act unbecomingly          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does not seek its own way       | <input type="checkbox"/> Is not easily provoked             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does not record wrongs suffered | <input type="checkbox"/> Does not enjoy unrighteousness     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rejoices in the truth           | <input type="checkbox"/> Bears (not “tolerates”) all things |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Believes all things             | <input type="checkbox"/> Endures all things                 |

**D. When love appears, this fruit of the Spirit is evident in and through us:  
(Galatians 5:22)**

- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> love         | <input type="checkbox"/> joy        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peace        | <input type="checkbox"/> patience   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> kindness     | <input type="checkbox"/> goodness   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> faithfulness | <input type="checkbox"/> gentleness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-control |                                     |

**E. A wife is to be:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> trustworthy (Proverbs 31:11)            | <input type="checkbox"/> chaste (Titus 2:5)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> respecting her husband (Ephesians 5:33) | <input type="checkbox"/> gentle (1 Peter 3:4)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> submissive (Ephesians 5:22)             | <input type="checkbox"/> a helper (Genesis 2:18) |

**F. A husband is to:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Understand his wife, giving her honor (1 Peter 3:7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Give himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide for her (1 Timothy 5:8)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Not be bitter toward her (Colossians 3:19) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Praise his wife (Proverb 31:28)                     |   |

**G. Each in his behaviors towards the other, is to: (1 Peter 2:18, 3:2; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9; Philippians 2:3,4)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not speak deception or lie           | <input type="checkbox"/> Be tenderhearted      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> When reviled, not revile in return   | <input type="checkbox"/> Be honorable          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not return evil for evil             | <input type="checkbox"/> Not provoke the other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be compassionate                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Not envy the other    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be courteous                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Not threaten          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Esteem the other better than himself |  |

**H. Each is to think continually on whatever is: (Philippians 4:8)**

- |                                   |                                       |   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> True     | <input type="checkbox"/> Noble        | <input type="checkbox"/> Just           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pure     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lovely       | <input type="checkbox"/> Of good report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virtuous | <input type="checkbox"/> Praiseworthy |   |

**I. Each is to be: (Hebrews 12:11; Philippians 4:5; 1 Peter 3:1, 5; Colossians 3; 12; James 4:6,10,17; Philippians 2:5-8)**

Humble

Meek

Kind

Patient

Gentle

Peaceable

Joyful

Faithful

Good

A servant

Emptied of himself

**2. What I believe and what I am striving to commit to:**

**A. God of the Gospel**

- I believe in God Almighty, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and who now is sanctifying me to live a godly and righteous life through His Word, His Holy Spirit and the sacraments.
- I believe Jesus is the Son of God and I have received Him as my Lord and Savior. He is right in all He says and does.
- I believe I am a sinner and although Christ is now in me, I still have a sin nature that wars against the things that God shows me to do. I sometimes want to do what is right, but I often, through the exercise of my free will, do what is wrong.

## B. Change

- God demands and enables change. Change is the essence of my sanctification, which is the process of putting off sinful ways of life and putting on godly ones. (Ephesians 4:17-24)
- By using His Word, in the power of His Holy Spirit, counsel and by the taking of the Lord's table, I will seek to replace sinful living patterns with new patterns that are pleasing to God (Colossians 3:8-12)

Please (✓) the sinful habits you are committed to changing with God's help.

- Communication breakdown
- Self Centeredness
- Lack of discipline/passivity
- Money problem
- Blame shifting
- Wrong priorities
- Worship of man made things
- Anger/aggression
- Others:

## C. Personal peacemaking intentions

- When I am faced with conflict, my primary goal will be to glorify God with my thoughts, words and actions; not win an argument (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- I will try to get the "logs" out of my own eyes before focusing on what others may have done wrong (Matthew 7:3-5)
- I will seek to overlook minor offenses (Proverbs 19:11)
- I will refrain from all gossip, backbiting and slander (Ephesians 4:29-32)

- I will make charitable judgments toward one another by believing the best about each other until we have facts that prove otherwise (1 Cor. 13:7)
- If an offense is too serious to overlook, or if I think someone may have something against me, I will go promptly to seek reconciliation (Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15)
- When I offer a word of correction to others, I will do so graciously and gently, with the goal of serving and restoring them rather than beating them down (Prov. 12:18, Eph. 4:29, Gal. 6:1)
- When someone tries to correct me, I will ask God to help me resist prideful defensiveness and to welcome correction with humility (Ps. 141:5, Prov. 15:32)
- When others repent, I will ask God to give me grace to forgive them as He has forgiven me (Eph. 4:32)

**B. Assisted peacemaking**

- When two of us cannot resolve a conflict privately, I will seek the mediation of wise people in our church and listen humbly to their counsel (Matt. 18:16, Phil. 4:2-3)
- When informal mediation does not resolve a dispute, I will seek formal assistance from our church elders or people they appoint, and I will submit to their counsel and correction (Matt. 18:17-20)

**C. Biblical Shepherding**

- Whenever I am unable to overcome sinful attitudes and behaviors through personal efforts, God calls me to seek assistance from other believers, and when needed from church elders, who have the responsibility of providing pastoral counseling and oversight (Rom. 15:14, Gal. 6:1-2, 2 Tim. 4:1-2, Heb. 13:17, James 5:16)
- I understand that elders are not infallible and do the best they can given the information I supply, the wisdom they are given from God and the work of the Holy Spirit. I understand they will learn personal information about my spouse and me. I will not compel church elders to testify in any legal proceeding or otherwise demand they divulge any confidential information

they receive through pastoral counseling or spiritual care ministry (Prov. 11:13, 25:9)

**D. Accountability and Discipline**

- I am committed to receiving from and giving help to others to obey God’s command to be “self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined” (informal discipline) (Titus 1:8)
- I will appropriate God’s grace to be self-disciplined as I study God’s Word, seek Him in prayer and draw on His grace to identify and change sinful habits and grow in godliness (2 Tim. 1:7)
- If an individual I interact with persistently refuses to listen to personal and informal correction to turn from speech or behavior that the Bible defines as sin, I will inform the church elder(s) of the situation in obedience to Jesus’ command (formal church discipline) (Matthew 18:17a)
- I will not run away from the church to avoid formal (corrective) discipline. I will not resign my church membership without having another church first receive me into membership. I understand that if I leave the church while under spiritual care, it will be noted as such.
- I am committed to pursue the blessings of accountability and discipline – “God disciplines us for our good that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems to be pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it” (Hebrews 12:10-11)

### 3. What Perimeter Church will do:

#### A. Form a Spiritual Care Team

A **Spiritual Care Team** (SCT) is a team of mature Christians who commit themselves to pray, support and assist a member or members with acute spiritual needs through a process of **love** (relationship), **know** (data gathering), **speak** (God's Word), and **do** (application of insights) for the purpose of returning that member to fellowship with God, family and fellow believers. It is a team approach to caring, confronting and reconciling in a biblical way, targeting the heart rather than behavioral change. (Gal. 6:1).

A SCT is formed for a period of 90 days, using Guiding Principles, with options for extension. This team will begin on:

\_\_\_\_\_ and conclude on \_\_\_\_\_

Team members will be:

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#### B. The tasks of Spiritual Care team:

- Pray together with those under care.
- Gather data and assess by:
  - coming alongside a struggling member(s), to listen, understand, share the burden and pray (Gal. 6:1-2).
  - helping sort out the issues and discern what God is doing in the life of the struggling member(s).
- Provide biblical perspectives, guidance and support.
- Introduce the member to relevant and available resources in the church.
- **Hold the member accountable to a course of action** – discipleship process.
- Use the censures available to the church to restore and promote Godly peace when needed. Initiate formal church discipline process if the member refuses to listen to the care, counsel and/or admonishments of the team.

C. The commitments of Spiritual Care team:

- To view the spiritual care ministry as an opportunity to glorify God.
- To assist the conflicting parties to “get the log out of their own eye”.
- To facilitate reconciliation through genuine confession and forgiveness.
- To be in regular communication with the conflicting parties.
- To pray regularly for them.
- To meet as a team with them regularly (not less than twice a month)
- To consult with others – e.g. church staff, counselor and/or therapist, physician, psychiatrist, other ministry leaders.
- To hold conflicting parties accountable to his/her promises.

D. Provide financial assistance as determined on a case by case basis.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per counseling session, for \_\_\_\_\_ sessions at an approved Christian counseling center designated by Perimeter Counseling Network.  
(Release of information required to be signed unless waived by SCT leader)

Counseling Center Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> session date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Carter

E. Commitment to Confidentiality – The Spiritual Care team will protect all information that they receive through pastoral counseling, self reports, reports from independent external counselors, subject to the following guidelines:

Although confidentiality is to be respected as much as possible, there are times when it is appropriate to reveal certain information to others. In particular, when the team believes it is biblically necessary, they may disclose the confidential information to appropriate people in the following circumstances:

- When the team is uncertain of how to counsel a person about a particular problem and needs to seek advice from other elders/leaders in our church or, if the person attends another church, from the leaders of that church (Prov. 11:14)
- When the person who disclosed the information, or any other person, is in imminent danger of serious harm unless others intervene (Prov. 24:11-12)
- When a person refuses to repent of sin and it becomes necessary to promote repentance through accountability and redemptive church discipline (formal discipline and censure) At this time selected leaders, elders and others may be informed both in writing and verbally. (Matthew 18:15-20) or,
- When team is required by law to report suspected abuse (Rom. 13:1)

Thank you for completing this document. We hope it was helpful. Your SCT will walk through it with you in entirety at your fist meeting. Please ask any questions you like at that time.

Agreed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number to reach you: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

SCT Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

RMT Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_