

# **Northern Lakes Community Church Shepherding Program**

## Introduction:

Our church has begun a Shepherding Program which will involve the pastor, elders, deacons and the entire congregation. It is a program of caring and concern. Elders and deacons will be the ministering shepherds and everyone in the congregation will have a shepherd, including the pastor, the elders and the deacons.

Christ is the Good Shepherd. He continues to shepherd His flock. He accomplishes this ministry through the lives of those who compose His spiritual body.

## Purpose:

The purpose of the Shepherding Ministry at NLCC is to improve the level of care of our congregation by the utilization of lay persons as caring shepherds. The desired result of the program is that all members of the congregation will feel they are vital parts of our church.

## Goals:

The Shepherding Program will provide a new communications link between congregational members, officers and the pastor of NLCC.

## Duties of Shepherds:

1. Become acquainted with each member of your group.
2. Contact each member of your group regularly by phone or at church.
3. Relay information to the minister so he or she is informed and can respond.
4. Relay certain needs to the minister, session, deacons, youth group leadership, etc., so they can respond.
5. Listen actively
6. Become a one-person welcoming committee to greet your group members at worship and other church events.
7. Pray regularly for your group members.
8. Pray for the success of the Shepherding Program.
9. Maintain trust and confidentiality.

## Participation of Shepherded Members:

1. Communicate with your shepherd regarding significant events and concerns: births, graduation, relocations, illness, death, hardship, divorce, promotions, etc.

2. Support the Shepherding Program and your church through prayer and giving help when needs arise.

Suggested Shepherding Activities:

1. A letter will be sent from the pastor to the congregation and "friends of the church" explaining the Program.
2. Each shepherd shall contact the members of his/her group by personal visit, letter or phone, establishing the first contact within the Program.
3. Contact each member of your group at least once a month. Establish rapport so you can feel at ease and can talk freely about any concerns.
4. Find out when birthdays and anniversaries are, and send cards or call.
5. If you don't see them in church for a few Sundays, call them to see if there is illness or if there is a concern about something in the church.
6. Greet them each Sunday at church, sit with them at worship.
7. Provides rides, babysitting, etc. occasionally if able.
8. Encourage their participation in church activities.
9. Pray for your "sheep".
10. Turn in your "Shepherd Report Slip" to the pastor each month.