

New Life Community Church
Counseling Policies and Consent

Introduction:

New Life Community Church partners with one of our members, Alison Spiegel, to provide access to counseling services for those connected to the church. Alison is trained through the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation and has a master's degree in counseling from Westminster Theological Seminary. For members of NLCC, the cost of counseling with Alison is paid by the church. Those who are able to do so can offset these costs by contributing to the NLCC Benevolence Fund. For all others, the fee is \$75 for a 50-minute session, but may be adjusted if there is financial need. Payment should be made directly to Alison.

Philosophy of Care:

Biblical Counseling is based upon the premise that we are created and designed by a loving God who wants to know and be known by his people. We are brought into personal fellowship with God through his resurrected Son, Jesus Christ. A growing, intimate relationship with Jesus is the foundation of change in our lives and will always be in view in our conversations. Your counseling will not be clinical therapy, though clinically-informed methods of counseling may be explored. We will seek to address any physical or physiological difficulties you are experiencing, and there may be times when appropriate medical care will be recommended.

Confidentiality:

The expectation of confidentiality is important to building trust in the counseling relationship. Any information shared during sessions will be respected and carefully guarded. If you are a member of NLCC this counseling is provided for you under the pastoral care and oversight of the elders and will be discussed with them. Only those details necessary for you to be cared for well will be shared. In some cases, there can be exceptions to this policy - please talk with Alison beforehand. If you are not a member of NLCC, no part of your counseling will be discussed with NLCC pastors unless you specifically request such involvement.

However, there are limits to confidentiality:

- the suspicion of serious, imminent harm to you or to others will not be kept confidential
- the abuse or neglect of a minor or the elderly will not be kept confidential

Waiver of Liability:

In signing this form you agree to abide by the information provided to you, and you release both New Life Community Church and Alison Spiegel from any legal liability arising from your voluntary participation in the counseling process. You have the right to discuss your care, goals, and alternative options, and you may conclude counseling at any time.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If client is a minor, signature of parent: _____