

## **First Baptist Church of Stryker Biblical Counseling Ministry**

### *Consent to Biblical Counseling*

(Each individual should complete their own form)

#### ***Our Goal***

Our goal in providing biblical counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life.

#### ***Biblical Basis***

We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. (2 Peter 1:3, Romans 15:4) Therefore, our counseling is based solely on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry.

#### ***Not Professional Advice***

The pastoral and lay counselors of First Baptist Church of Stryker (FBCS) are not professional doctors, psychologists or psychiatrists. They do not provide this kind of professional advice or service. Their sole purpose is to help you discover how the Bible addresses the common challenges we all face in life and how to apply these to your own situation. Therefore, if you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from independent professionals not associated with FBCS. Our pastoral and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant biblical principles. By signing this "Consent to Biblical Counseling" you agree to hold FBCS harmless in any and all matters associated with the biblical advice you have received.

#### ***Confidentiality***

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. However, because we are continually training others to be effective counselors, you may be asked to allow counselors-in-training to be present during your sessions. As mandated reporters, we are also required by law to report to the authorities when there is clear indication that a crime has been committed or that someone may be harmed without intervention. In addition, there are three other situations when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: (1) When a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor or counselor in this church; (2) when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with the leadership of his or her church; or (3) when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-17). Please be assured that our counselors diligently guard against disclosing personal information to others, and will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

#### ***Resolution of Conflicts***

On rare occasions a conflict may arise between counselor and counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflicts will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with the counselor or with FBCS as a result of

counseling will be settled with mediation within the church according to the principles of scripture and the authority of this local church.

Having clarified the principles and policies of our counseling ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ and to be used by Him as He helps you to grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with one of our pastors.

**By signing below you affirm that you have read and agree to abide by these policies:**

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*Signature*

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*Date*