

The Pearl Ministry Disclosure Statement and Consent for Treatment

The Pearl Ministry seeks to assist the pastoral staff of Pleasant View Baptist Church (PVBC) by being available to minister to individual members who are in need of comfort, support, encouragement and prayer. By initialing the following paragraphs, you are indicating that you acknowledge, agree and understand the limitations of The Pearl Ministry, and you consent to engaging and receiving the services of the volunteer Lay Caregivers of The Pearl Ministry.

_____The Pearl Ministry consists of three levels of care available to the members of PVBC. Level One Lay Caregivers are volunteers and members-in-good-standing of PVBC. They will use their knowledge of scriptures from the Holy Bible, personal life-changing experiences, and additional Biblically-based training received through The Pearl Ministry to meet the needs of those seeking help. Level Two Lay Caregivers are also volunteers and members in good standing of PVBC. In addition, they are also licensed professional mental health providers, who have earned Master's Degrees from an accredited college graduate program in counseling or social work. Level Three Caregivers are the members of the pastoral staff of PVBC, formally ordained and licensed.

_____The Pearl Ministry is not a professional counseling service but is Biblical and spiritual in nature. There is no charge and no expectation of payment. Level One Lay Caregivers are not trained or educated as professional counselors and do not counsel as licensed psychologists, licensed psychiatrists, licensed marriage and family therapists, certified therapists or any other type of professional mental health providers. Consequently, they will not and should not be expected to follow the methods of such professional specialists. There will be no attempt to render a psychological evaluation or diagnosis. If you have significant legal, medical, financial or other technical concerns, you should seek advice from an independent professional.

_____You acknowledge, agree and understand that while there may be individuals assisting with the Pearl Ministry as Level Two Lay Caregivers and as Supervisors (who are also licensed professional mental health counselors) nothing within The Pearl Ministry is intended to be the provision of professional mental health services. If your situation does require mental health treatment, you will be given a referral list of licensed professional mental health providers.

_____Under some circumstances, those who are referred to a licensed mental health professional may choose to work with both a licensed mental health professional and a Pearl Ministry Lay Caregiver. In this situation, you agree that you will fill out the Pearl Ministry Authorization Form so that communication may take place between the Lay Caregiver and the licensed mental health professional.

_____The Pearl Ministry is designed to offer short term help, offering no more than 8 meetings with the Level One Caregivers. A typical meeting time is 45 minutes. If you feel that further assistance is necessary, you will be referred to a Level Two Lay Caregiver for no more than an additional 8 meetings. You may also be referred to the Level Three Caregivers.

_____ If you must cancel or reschedule an appointment, please give 24 hour notice to your Lay Caregiver by calling The Pearl Ministry at 410-378-4476, ext. 876; or by sending an email to ThePearlMinistry@pvbchurch.com. The extension and email address is checked every 24 hours.

_____ This ministry does not provide 24/7 or after-hours crisis intervention. If you are in crisis, please call 911, The Suicide Hotline at 1-800-SUICIDE, or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

_____ You understand that you will likely be disclosing and examining issues of a deeply personal nature during your meetings with a Pearl Ministry Lay Caregiver. You acknowledge that this information you share with the Lay Caregiver (a) may not be covered by any clergy-congregation/penitent privilege, (b) nor is it covered by any psychotherapist-patient privilege (even if a licensed mental health professional is present), and (c) nor is this information to be considered Protected Health information, as defined by law.

_____ The Pearl Ministry and the Lay Caregivers will endeavor to keep information disclosed in the course of the meetings confidential. You acknowledge, understand and agree that Lay Caregivers participate in regular supervision with the Administrator and Supervisors of the Pearl Ministry, and that some aspects of your meetings may be disclosed as part of the supervision process. The Level Three Pastoral Staff Caregivers will also be available for consultation with Level One and Level Two Lay Caregivers. Every effort will be made to keep your personal information as confidential as possible. There are also a few situations where Lay Caregivers are required by law to report to other agencies, persons, or civil authorities without your consent. These include, but are not limited to the following: known or suspected child abuse or elder abuse of any kind; intended criminal actions or violence against another person; active suicidal thoughts or intentions; credible intent or threats to harm self or others.

_____ If a dispute should arise between the Lay Caregiver and the church member receiving services from The Pearl Ministry in regards to the session or the Lay Caregiver's advice or behavior, one should bring this situation to the attention of the Administrator of The Pearl Ministry. If this difference cannot be resolved at this level, all parties agree to resolve the dispute by submitting to the Church's Administrative Committee for full and final resolution and conciliation.

_____ In consideration for receiving services from The Pearl Ministry of PVBC, you agree to release and waive any and all claims of any kind against The Pearl Ministry, pastoral staff, Level One and Level Two Lay Caregivers, or PVBC, which may arise from and result out of, or be related to the advice or efforts given.

_____ The Pearl Ministry Lay Caregivers will not provide court testimony and you agree, understand and acknowledge that neither you nor your legal representative will attempt to subpoena any of the Lay Caregivers for testimony in court, nor will you attempt to subpoena any notes or records related to your meetings with the Lay Caregivers.

I have initialed each section of the above document. By signing this Disclosure Statement and Consent for Treatment Form, I acknowledge my agreement to the conditions of this Disclosure and I voluntarily request to receive services from The Pearl Ministry of PVBC. I declare that I am fully capable of discerning good and bad advice, and that no guarantees have been made to me with respect to the expected results of my meetings with a Lay Caregiver.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____