



CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH (CBC)

HOSPITAL MINISTRY POLICY

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CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH HOSPITAL MINISTRY POLICY/ GUIDELINE

1. Preamble

Christ Baptist Church of Polokwane exists as a Biblical community to Glorify God by exalting His supremacy in all things, equipping one another for works of service and evangelizing all nations that we may present every person complete in Christ.

Towards the CBC Statement of Faith stated above, Hospital Ministry is an important part of CBC Ministries and that involves Pastoral Ministry a great deal. A large number of people including Church members, are hospitalized. With this in mind, a Hospital Visitation Policy is to be in place to facilitate good care of the sick or hospitalised people showing Christ's love and support.

Biblical Basis: The healing ministry of Jesus Christ illustrates His concern and compassion for the sick. Caring for the sick is important in meeting the physical needs of the sick. When you go to the hospital to see the patient in the name of Him who said, "...I was sick, and ye visited me" ([Matt. 25:35 - 36](#)), you are following in the footsteps of Jesus, who also spent time in ministering to the sick.

2. PURPOSE AND MANDATE:

To provide support for the sick and hospitalized church members and their attending family.

3. PROCEDURE:

Maintain the Hospital Visitation Ministry of people who shall:

- Ensure that all church members of the congregation and their attending family are offered the presence of the Pastor(s) or church member when sick or ill, including before and during surgery.
- Ensure that those church members who are hospitalized for extended periods of time receive regular follow up visits and calls; and
- Ensure that any church member, who is hospitalized for whatever reason, receives a visit or a phone call.

4. GUIDELINE: HOSPITAL MINISTRY

4.1. Compassion and Pastoral Care:

- The foundation of pastoral care is compassion. The Church has valued ministry to the sick as an important component of pastoral care. Pastoral care is critical and is directly related to the effectiveness of our ministry when visiting church members who are hospitalized.
- Pastoral care is providing compassion - being with people - just as God is "with us" in Jesus Christ. The pastoral visit is normally to alleviate anxiety, fear and despair and tries to replace those emotions with hope, courage, peace and ability to cope.
- Be informed when you visit. Know the nature of the patient's illness before you enter the room, either from the family or from the physician. Your visit with someone with a minor illness will certainly differ from a visit with a terminal cancer patient.

4.2. The Pastor and the Health Care Team:

- To increase the effectiveness of hospital ministry, is a collegial relationship with the hospital staff.
- In this regard the hospital ministry Elder or Chairperson or delegated Committee Member is the most important person to organise and arrange for the introduction to key members of the hospital staff. To familiarise yourself with the layout of the hospital, the location of the waiting room and nursing units/station, an orientation visit is recommended.
- During the visit, inquire about the policies for pastoral visitation's and access to critically ill patients.

4.3. Emotional and Spiritual Preparation:

- To make a meaningful hospital visit, a Pastor's emotional and spiritual preparedness is very key and necessary.
- One has to know himself or herself as an effective caregiver in the hospital setting.
- As pastoral caregivers we should anticipate that some of our visits with patients and relatives will be exhausting and draining.
- It is critical that we are grounded in our faith so we can respond to questions about healing, suffering and forgiveness that are raised by patients and relatives.
- A pastor needs to respond to issues raised by patients and relatives based on their knowledge of God, the Bible and their church's doctrine.

4.4. The Visit - Exclusions, Exceptions and Limitations:

4.4.1. Do's:

- Call the hospital before your visit to determine if the patient is well enough to receive visitors and what time would be convenient.
- Stop at the nursing station and introduce yourself.
- Knock at the patient's door and wait to be invited in.
- Observe all protocols displayed on the patient's door.
- If uncertain about any procedure, ask the nurse for clarification.
- Monitor the length of time of your visit.
- Introduce yourself to the patient, especially if you do not know him / her.
- Sit where you can maintain comfortable eye contact with the patient.
- Be cheerful and make pleasant conversation that focuses on the patient.
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Display concern for the patient's illness and respect for his or her feelings.
- Share Scripture
- Ask patients if they have special needs as you prepare to pray.
- Ask permission to touch him/ her on the hand or cheek.

4.4.2. Don'ts:

- Do not be insulted by a patients' words and attitudes.
- Do not offer false optimism about a patient's recovery or participate in criticism.
- Do not touch equipment even if requested by the patient.
- Do not tell the patient unpleasant news of your troubles.
- Do not whisper when talking to relatives or medical staff.
- Do not break hospital rules or violate confidentiality issues.
- Do not awaken sleeping patient unless the nurse approves.
- Do not help patient get out of bed or give food or drink without approval.
- Do not visit a female patient alone as a Pastor/Deacon; always make sure that you are accompanied by your spouse or a female member and vice versa.

4.5. Intensive Care Visits:

- Be aware of the hours of visitation before you go
- Be aware of the signage at the doors – regarding gowns, masks, and gloves – and follow the hospital instructions; dispose of these items in the appropriately designated places
- Keep visits very brief, acknowledge family who are present, leave a business card if you have one in case the patient is asleep
- Do not take flowers or gifts while the patient is in ICU – flowers eat up oxygen, and gifts often get lost (especially when the patient is moved to another room) or stolen.

4.6. Gift Ideas:

- A greeting card (prayer, get well, encouragement)
- A small devotional book with scriptures
- A topical Bible
- A small plant or flower (if in regular room)

5. Monitoring and Reporting:

The Ministry leader must facilitate and monitor the progress made and report back to the Deacons and Elders any concerns expressed by the committee members.

6. Appointment of Chairperson and the Ministry Committee:

- The Chairperson of the Hospital Ministry and Committee is appointed by the CBC Elders and it will be one of the ordained Deacons of CBC.
- The Hospital Committee Members shall be five (5) to a maximum of seven (7) and consist of CBC Pastors, Deacons and Members.
- See the attached Annexure A, with a list of Committee Members.

7. Frequency of meetings:

The official meeting will be held once in a quarter; however, briefings will be done on a regular basis so as to update members on the developments.

8. Review of Policy or Guideline:

The policy or Guideline will be reviewed every two years to afford the Committee members chance to make some inputs or adjustments if necessary.

9. Duration and Dissolving of the Committee:

- The Chairperson/ Deacon of the Hospital Committee will serve indefinitely, unless they resign from the committee or die or as Deacon, not meet the qualifications of being a deacon (1 Tim 3: 8 – 13)
- The term of office for the Committee members is in line with the Review process; that means two years, and one may be opted again for another term. The consideration of

a further two (2) years renewal, mutually agreed upon by the Member and the Chairperson subject to further approval by the CBC Elders.

- The Hospital Committee can also be dissolved by the Elders based on strategic plans of Shepherding CBC or performing oversight duties (e.g. Decide to recall the Hospital Ministry and be performed by Eldership Office).

For confirmation of this Hospital Ministry Policy being approved by the CBC Elders, see the authorised signature below:

Approved by the Elders on: 18 November 2022

Date

Authorised Signature: Pastor Joseph Mahlaola



Full Name of Senior Pastor

Signature