



# Soul Care Policies

## **Instructions for Policy Review**

After carefully reading each policy, please initial in the space provided to indicate your understanding and agreement. If you have questions please email [soulcare@sohillscc.com](mailto:soulcare@sohillscc.com). *If for any reason you are unable to sign these forms, we will be unable to serve you.*

## **Your Rights while Being Disciplined**

You are encouraged to report to an elder/pastor at Southern Hills Christian Church as defined in “The Waiver of Liability” below, if you have any grievances regarding the discipleship. You may terminate the discipleship process at any time, but we encourage you to consult with the Soul Care Coach who is disciplining you as to the best way and time to do so.

## **Not Professional Advice**

If you have significant legal, financial, medical, or other technical questions, we may help you seek advice from an independent professional in that field.

## Waiver of Liability

In seeking discipleship from Southern Hills Christian Church, please acknowledge your understanding of the following conditions and further release Southern Hills Christian Church, her elders, staff, employees, volunteers, and leaders, from any legal liability, claim, or litigation arising from your participation in this voluntary program:

1. Discipleship will be provided by pastors or church-trained lay leaders. The Soul Care Discipleship Team is not a licensed counseling service.
2. All discipleship is provided in accordance with the biblical principles adhered to by Southern Hills Christian Church.
3. No representation has been made, either expressly or implied, that the discipleship, as conducted by the above mentioned Soul Care Coaches, is accepted as customary psychological and/or psychiatric therapy within the definitional terms utilized by those professions.
4. It is understood by the participant that in the event there is a complaint and grievance, it may be heard by the elders of Southern Hills Christian Church.

# Philosophy of Care

We are committed to providing a balanced and Biblical approach to discipleship. By Biblical discipleship we mean that the person meeting with you is a Christian with special training and experience in applying the truths of the Bible to life. We believe that the Bible speaks to all of life and to all of its problems, but it takes careful thought and prayerful wisdom to know how to make those connections. We don't believe that the Bible is simply a how-to book for happiness.

We are confident that through the Scriptures and the power of His Spirit, God has given us all the instruction necessary for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4). It is our joy to help real people, with real problems, using the Bible. Your discipleship sessions will uphold the Scriptures as the final authority in all matters. If you are not sure that you will be interested in biblical discipleship, you have the option of attending a trial session to discover how biblical discipleship may help you.

Most importantly, we believe that the Bible ultimately points us to Jesus Christ. We believe that real change comes when people learn to see themselves and their problems in the context of a living, vital relationship with Christ. We believe that deep and lasting change is brought about only by God himself. Because of this, we do not use the Bible in a superficial or heavy-handed way.

The Soul Care team utilizes the help of both trained lay volunteers and pastors. Our volunteers and pastors do not know everything about biblical teaching and its application to life; nevertheless, they do know much and will do their best to help you. The Soul Care Coach who is discipling you will tell you if they require additional assistance from another Soul Care Coach, pastor, and/or elder. Please understand that biblical discipleship consists of a Christian providing scriptural guidance and practical application. Yet, the person being disciplined is held fully responsible for how he/she implements that guidance (James 1:23-25). In addition, our Soul Care Coaches are neither psychologists, nor professional counselors. The ministry team consists of pastors, lay volunteers, and trainees under the direction of the church elders.

## Appointment Cancellation

We want to be a good steward of the time and resources of the Soul Care Discipleship Ministry. Therefore, we request a **24 hour notice** if you wish to cancel or are unable to keep an appointment. If you are unable to keep a scheduled discipling appointment, you should call the church office at **(770) 832-1446** or email **soulcare@sohillsc.com** to cancel. For weekday appointments, cancellation is expected 24 hours in advance. For Monday appointments, please contact the office by Monday morning at **8:00 AM**. We understand emergencies happen, so please keep us informed.

Discipling members of Southern Hills Christian Church always takes precedence over discipleship for non-members. Yet we diligently work to make a Soul Care Coach available for as many people as possible.

# Confidentiality Clause

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the discipleship process. We carefully guard the information you entrust to us to the fullest extent possible. As a church-based discipleship ministry, we do not offer absolute confidentiality. There are times when it may be necessary for us to share specific information with another Soul Care Coach, pastor, and/or elder. These may include, but are not limited to, matters of church discipline (cf. Matt. 18:15 ff.), criminal activities, and potential harm to self or others. Additionally, when a Soul Care Coach is uncertain how to address a particular situation, they may consult with another member of the Soul Care team, a pastor, and/or an elder at Southern Hills Christian Church for the purpose of providing the highest level of care within the ministries of the church. To provide the best care for you, we will work together as a ministry team while keeping the circle of confidentiality as tight as possible.

There are times when information may be shared outside the church. Those exceptions would include, but are not limited to the following:

- known or suspected abuse of any kind
- the intent to take criminal actions or violence against another person
- credible thoughts or intentions to harm oneself or another

If you have thoughts or intentions during the course of your discipleship appointment of harming yourself or someone else, it is crucial that you talk with the Soul Care Coach about these matters. By initialing below, you agree to share any such thoughts or intentions at any time they arise and that you would seek medical care.

In the case of marriage discipleship, there is limited confidentiality, meaning the confidentiality belongs to the couple and not the individual. Anything shared apart from the spouse, should be assumed will be shared with the spouse at the discretion of the Soul Care Coach.