

PASTORAL CARE

PREAMBLE

Scripture instructs Leaders (Pastors and officers) to take good care of the members. The New Testament church is built on good relationship among members. Our church, today, is faced with the challenge of poor follow up on new converts and backsliders. Lukewarm members who are supposed to be encouraged by leaders are seldom visited. The church has lost a lot of members and even continues to lose more. It is therefore, incumbent on all leaders to come to terms with the issue and help solve this problem once and for all. Against this background, and in order to improve on our pastoral care, the following steps are to be followed:

Prov 27:23

“Know the **state** of your flocks, and **put your heart into caring** for your herds” (NLT).

“Know your sheep **by name; carefully attend** to your flocks” (THE MESSAGE).

The good shepherd is enjoined to know the state of his/her flock to be able to meet their needs. Leaders must therefore, make conscious effort to be close to the members in order to know their condition and help them.

STEPS

1. Gathering of personal information: This shall include Name, Sex, Age, residence, place of work and Employment, phone numbers and email addresses.
 - 1.1. Annual compilation of church membership list shall be done from **1st Nov – 31st Dec**
 - 1.2. Final list shall be compiled on 31st December, since there is normally maximum attendance during watch nights.
2. The list shall be grouped into zones using the place of residence as the basis.
 - 2.1. Two or more Home-Cells (up to eight Home-Cells) form the Zone or small Assembly.
 - 2.2. Medium, Large and Mega Churches have many Zones in big Towns and Cities.
3. Members shall be shared among officers (Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses)/Mature Spirit-filled members
 - 3.1. Particulars of the members assigned to an officer shall be readily available for use and follow up by the Presiding Elders/District Pastor.
 - 3.2. In addition to ordained officers, members may be assigned to mature Spirit-filled disciples as their mentors.
4. Each officer/mentor shall be responsible for taking care of the members given to him/her for a year.
 - 4.1. The officer/mentor shall visit the members put under his/her care at least once a Month.
 - 4.2. Effort shall be made to send text messages, emails, etc to make contacts.
5. The Presiding elder shall visit/contact the members in his local at least once in six months. (Ref Ministers' handbook section 18a iii, page 90)
6. The District pastor shall plan and make sure he visit/contact every member within a year.
 - 6.1. Effort shall be made to send text messages, emails, etc to make contacts.

7. Special follow up teams.
 - 7.1. Committed officers and mature spirit-filled members shall be sent out on Sundays during church service to follow up lukewarm and backslidden members.
 - 7.2. This may be done on monthly basis.
8. Recognition of Birthdays and important celebrations by the leadership:
 - 8.1. Text messages, emails, phone calls shall be used to wish members well on such occasions.
 - 8.2. They may be prayed for at church.