

Mission Statement

We will nurture, through counseling and teaching, the spiritual well-being of individuals through God's Word as it relates to their emotional, relational, and mental health needs (*2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:2*). Our goal is to alleviate suffering and promote Christian maturity so people can grow in their likeness to Christ, experience a deeper relationship with God and enter into a more effective life of service to others. The Bible is our authority (*1 Thessalonians 2:13*) as we apply the gifts that God gives to man (*Romans 12:5-8; Isaiah 50:4*). The services provided will support and strengthen the local Elder's shepherding and the brotherhood of the Apostolic Christian Church and those not affiliated with the church, as resources allow.

Philosophy

We are God's creation and obedience to His Word leads to healthy lives and relationships (*Psalms 19:7-8*). Licensed and lay counselors will be used. Counseling will be consistent with Biblical principles (*Psalms 119:105*). Counseling should include instruction, discipling, mentoring and accountability to God's Word (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).

Guiding Principles

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services is structured to support the local elders' responsibility in caring for those in their congregations. ACCFS services support local church leadership and local church membership.

Church

- Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services is under the oversight of the Elder Body.
- Services are provided in a way that is consistent with Apostolic Christian Church doctrine and practices as articulated in the Statement of Faith.
- As appropriate and feasible, services are made available to the entire denomination.
- Staff are members of the Apostolic Christian Church and have the support of their local elder.

Counseling

- We believe in the authority of God's Word and recognize the importance of emphasizing grace while not minimizing sin.
- We believe in the diversity of gifts within the Body of Christ and use spiritual and clinical counsel to offer healing and hope to hurting individuals.
- We recognize people are complex spiritual, biological, psychological, and social beings and thus seek to promote their well-being in these areas using the gifts of counseling and teaching.

Services

- Access to services is provided regardless of the individual's ability to pay.
- In order to promote godly, healthy living and to minimize needless suffering, our services emphasize prevention, early intervention, education, and enrichment.
- Referrals may be made to other professional services when appropriate.

Scope of Services (*Galatians 6:10; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9*)

Services will be developed and made available locally, regionally and nationally as appropriate and feasible to the brotherhood and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church. Services will be made available to others as resources allow. These services will be based on a spiritual and professional model of care and will include counseling services, educational resources, consultations, and human resource development.

Counseling Services (*Galatians 6:2*)

- Provide advice or guidance based on Biblical principles to help people who are struggling with personal issues that interfere with their relationship with God, with their fellow man, and with their peace.
- Services will include individual, family, marriage, and group counseling.
- Assessment/assignment/referral based on needs.
- Assist congregations in identifying appropriate local non-Apostolic Christian counselors.

Educational Resources (*Ephesians 4:11-12; John 17:17*)

- Provide information and resources (presentations, programs, hand-outs, and books) to assist the brotherhood in living a sanctified life in obedience to God's Word and strengthening their relationship with God and their fellow man.
- Provide presentations based on needs in local congregations.
- Provide resources and materials to assist elders and ministers in their counseling and nurturing responsibilities.
- Develop new materials.
- Screen and/or revise existing materials (such as Crown Financial Ministries, Way of Purity, etc.).
- Maintain website.
- As needed, facilitate local, regional, or national support groups to accommodate specific brotherhood issues.
- Provide resources and materials for elders desiring to utilize local brethren to provide services.

Consultations (*Proverbs 19:20*)

- Provide advice and direction to individuals in need and/or those involved with them.
- Consultations would be available to ministers, elders, and others.
- These services may be conducted in person, by phone, or by email.
- Development of Human Resources (*Ephesians 4:11-12*)
- Provide guidance and counsel to spiritually mature brethren who feel God is leading them into counseling.
- Assist local elders in identifying and developing lay brethren who could assist in counseling.
- Provide mentoring of students in counseling programs.

Serving Apostolic Christian Missions (*Isaiah 50:4, Galatians 6:10*)

- Provide guidance and counsel to those who are on the mission field as well as those considering the mission field.
- Support Apostolic Christian Mission agencies (screening assessments and consulting).
- Support Apostolic Christian Mission teams/individuals (training and counseling).