

Therapist Recommendation

Heritage Christian Church is blessed to offer groups for men and women designed to help them address the painful wounds of the past and find healing and wholeness in Christ. We use some resources created by Dr. Terry Wardle of Ashland Theological Seminary. These groups, called "Transformational Healing Groups," meet for 12-16 weeks and we would like to see if you would recommend your client to attend such a group.

We are also asking you, to the best of your ability, to make yourself available to offer counseling assistance to your client if additional support is needed before, during, and after group sessions. Transformational Healing Groups are typically led by lay leaders within our church; however, there is a training process that is required to become a group leader. We greatly value psychologists, psychiatrists, and licensed counselors and our goal is not to replace professional counseling. At best, we might be able to supplement what you are doing and if you don't think it's a good time for your client to participate, then please do not sign the document below.

The requirements and expectations for group involvement are as follows:

Candidate Requirements

1. The individual must commit to arrive on time and attend the weekly sessions.
2. If married, the spouse must be in agreement with your decision to participate.
3. These groups are Christ-centered and led by the Holy Spirit. Participants must understand this and be in agreement with it.
4. If participants are dealing with addictions, substance abuse, or domestic violence, they must be participating in an appropriate program that deals with that particular problem and be free of those behaviors for at least a year. Transformational Healing Groups are not specifically designed to help people with those issues.
5. It is essential that a person not be hospitalized or receive inpatient care for emotional, psychological, or mental health issues within the past year and the individual must then get a signed release form or recommendation from a psychologist, psychiatrist, or licensed professional counselor.
6. A person must agree to treat information shared in the group as confidential — it should not be shared with others outside the group.
7. Group members must make a commitment to do the readings and other weekly assignments to encourage growth.

Participant's Rights During the Group

1. The freedom to leave the group if it doesn't appear to be what you expected or what you want or need.
2. A consultation with the group leader should a crisis arise as a direct result of participation in the group, or a referral to other sources of help if further assistance is not available from the group leader.
3. The exercise of reasonable safeguards on the leader's part to create a safe group environment.

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4. Freedom from undue pressures concerning participation in group exercises, decision making, disclosure of private matters, or acceptance of suggestions from other group members.
5. The right to be treated as an individual and accorded dignity and respect.
Confidentiality, except in the following situations:
 - Threat to the health of the individual and/or others (e.g., suicide, cutting, eating disorders, etc.).
 - The revealing of physical or sexual abuse towards children or adults.
 - In the unlikely case of a judge or court that subpoenas information.Note: In difficult circumstances, group leaders have the right to consult with Heritage Pastors if they need additional input.

By signing this document, I don't know any reason why (put client's name in box)
_____ should not participate in a Heritage-sponsored transformational healing group and, subject to availability, I will do what I can to provide counseling services if additional support is needed. Your name goes here _____.

Please read, sign , and return to the below address:

Heritage Christian Church
Attn: April Walters
7413 Maxtown Rd.
Westerville, OH 43082