

WESTCITY CHURCH

Love God | Love People | Follow Jesus

Pastoral Care Overview

As a community, Westcity seeks to embrace Gods concern for our society and the world through living not for ourselves but as other-person regarding. It is within our community that other-person regarding (one-anothering) is practiced as a core tenet of seeking to be More Like Jesus.

Pastoral care is at the very core of Westcity business, it undergirds the Healthy Church Framework which provides a simple structure of essential guidelines for the safety, care and freedom, for all community members.

Pastoral care considerations are reflected in all aspects of Westcity operations and we believe every element of each church ministry, provides pastoral care. Those that maintain a safe building, those that lead us in worship, those that teach, those that teach our children and youth, those that prepare hospitality, prepare communications, pray, and our home churches, all create and support an environment that enables the individual to grow in their love for God, and become a part of a 'body' of Christ that one-anothers well.

To this end, pastoral care at Westcity is a culture established through the growing in one-anothering and building non-judgmental spaces in which vulnerability without fear is possible and a collective waiting on the work of the Holy Spirit is present. In this space each community member is encouraged to be self-reflective on their own ability to serve / give, to the other, in the face of pastoral care needs, thus to practice Being the Church.

Westcity also understands there are seasons in our lives where we need more intensive pastoral care to help us walk "through the valley" and not camp there. The Westcity Pastoral Care contact, facilitates appropriate connection into the extensive network of pastoral care both within and external to, the Westcity community.

At Westcity we practice pastoral care as:

It says I see and hear you- each person is invited into a space where connection and relationship is possible, e.g. Home churches, Spiritual Formation Groups.

It says you are important to our community and unconditionally loved by God – we take inclusive communication seriously; each week you are invited to share at the Lords table.

It says, rest your arms on our shoulders, we can't fix your problems, but we can hold your arms and share our faith and biblical truths with you, that this too may pass. We value prayer and have people willing to walk alongside you when the going gets tough.

It says hard times doesn't mean God doesn't love you - we trust Gods redeeming love and the work of the Holy Spirit.

It says we are merely your brothers and sisters, on our own journeys and struggles, ie we haven't made it yet either – we have a healthy biblical framework for helping us work through conflict.

It says we love you enough to help you find the help you need when it's beyond our scope and training- it's not rejection. – Westcity refers to many local community support organisations and professional practitioners to ensure your care is holistic and appropriate.

It says we love you so much that at times we will come in twos, one to hold up each of your arms and share the load as we look to Jesus.