

Pastoral Care and Coverage is a Team Effort

At DCPC we are blessed to have five ordained clergy on staff, all of whom have received training and have a wide variety of experiences in pastoral care. This means that when a member or friend of DCPC reaches out for pastoral care or pastoral services, we always have someone available to assist. In fact, having such a large group of clergy means that we get to organize our care in ways that support members, make best use of staff time and honor relationships. Here are a few things to know about pastoral care at DCPC.

- 1.) We have a pastor-on-call 24/7. If you call the church office to speak to a pastor outside of office hours, you will be patched through to the cell phone of one of our pastors. That person changes each week.
- 2.) Funerals are assigned based on a number of factors, one of which is prior history and another of which is pastor availability. This means that in some cases you might have a pastor you know well assist with your funeral and in some cases a different pastor will be your primary support.
- 3.) Hospital visits are a rotating assignment. We have a different pastor covering each day of the week. So if you go to the hospital on Monday, someone will connect with you that day (maybe not in person, especially during COVID) and if it is Tuesday, a different pastor will check in with you.
- 4.) Baptisms and weddings are a rotating assignment. If you want a baptism or a wedding in August, we have a pastor assigned for that month. He or she will make sure your special day happens in a memorable and meaningful way.

DCPC is blessed to have more than just clergy caring for one another. We also have a group of trained caregivers called Stephen Ministers. They all received hours of training to become compassionate listeners and companions on a variety of journeys. Members going through job loss, divorce, grief and a host of other situations have found a Stephen Minister an important companion along the way. You can be connected to a Stephen Minister by calling the Rev. Larry Lyon.

Right now, during our pandemic, in-person availability for care is a little different. While we are not making hospital calls, pastors are available by phone, email and for short, socially distant outdoor connections. We also have a pastor on the patio M/W/F from 8:30 – 10:00 for short, socially distant visits and prayers.