

Care Ministries Team

In the course of our lives, we all go through at least one period of time when we need help or comfort. It might be brought about by a tragic event, such as the loss or incapacitation of a loved one. It might come about by losing a job. It could involve dealing with health issues. There are many circumstances that can lead to troubled times.

There are a number of organizations whose missions are to help people through difficult times. The trouble is that someone in need may not know assistance is available for them...or how to get it. That's where our church can help.

The Visioning Committee proposes a plan that works like this: A Care Ministries Team would be established whose members act as facilitators for guiding those in need to organizations that can help—people requiring food, shelter, medical or emotional support, substance abuse treatment, and transportation to name some possibilities. The team would be specialized, each facilitator handling only one of these areas.

It will be the job of the facilitators to become familiar with their respective disciplines: what services are available in Ely and the surrounding area, who is eligible for the services, how are those services obtained, what are the requirements for those seeking the services, what payment, if any, will be required, and how to contact the group that provides the service. When asked for assistance, the facilitator will then be able to contact the appropriate organization and help the person get the aid needed. In some instances facilitators would work together to help someone. For example, a person needing treatment for abuse of alcohol might not only need to know where AA groups meet, but also need transportation to get there.

Provided they possess proper qualifications, facilitators might choose to do some of the actual work themselves. A Meal or Food Facilitator, for example, might do some grocery shopping for someone who is home-bound. A Transportation Facilitator might help a person access the Arrowhead Transit System or choose to drive the person himself. It would be up to the individual facilitator to decide whether or not to take on such tasks. Of course, there are some areas such as medical assistance where proper credentials would absolutely be required if the facilitator were to do more than simply help with arrangements.

Those in need of assistance would be able to request it on a form included in our Welcome Folders. Some people might be hesitant to fill out a form asking for help, so it would also suggest that a person could make his request privately to the minister. This form may have to be revised from time to time to reflect those services for which we have facilitators.

Implementing this plan will require people willing to carry it out. We need volunteers. Would you be willing to help? The plan is an ambitious one. We may have to scale it back, depending on how many volunteers we get. If, for example, we get only three people volunteering to serve as facilitators for, say, emotional support, food needs, and transportation needs, that is as far as the plan will be implemented. Which of the areas cited earlier are you familiar with? Is there a discipline not mentioned that you're knowledgeable about? Where would you be willing to help?

Jesus lived and taught charity and compassion. As Christians, we profess the same. Only in actually carrying out our good intentions do we live up to what we profess. Please contact the chairman of the Visioning Committee by clicking on visioning@elyumc.org if you are interested in the program.