

COMMITTEE FOR SUPPORT

Mission

To provide safe, loving and spirit-lead support around a specific concern, such as spiritual direction, personal relationship, a calling or leading, personal crisis, work related issue, life changes, illness, and parenting.

This is often an ongoing committee that may meet regularly or at the discretion of the person who has requested support (focus person).

Membership

Usually 3 or 4 individuals recommended by Care and Counsel Committee and/or another appropriate committee, such as:

- Care and Counsel Committee alone for certain personal issues
- Worship and Ministry Committee for spiritual direction/leadings
- Peace and Social Action Committee for social concern issues.

The members of the Support Committee need to be familiar with support committees and be approved by the focus person.

It is recommended that the Support Committee meet with a member of Care and Counsel prior to their first meeting with the focus person.

Procedure

- An individual (focus person) or group with a concern contacts the clerk of Care and Counsel with a request for a support committee. The Clerk refers the concern to a member of the committee who then calls the focus person. After a brief discussion the focus person submits a written statement of his/her concern to a Care and Counsel member. The focus person may also suggest individuals he/she might recommend or not recommend for the support committee.
- Members of the Care and Counsel Committee discern if this concern is the purview of Care and Counsel, Worship and Ministry or perhaps Peace and Social Action. As indicated, Care and Counsel may work with the other committees to develop a support committee. A Care and Counsel generated list of several names (more than 4) is presented to the focus person for his/her selection of the Support Committee members.
- The Care and Counsel member contacts these individuals to determine their willingness and availability to serve on the committee. Once the committee is determined the convener is free to convene the meeting.
- In preparation for the first meeting, the focus person's statement is distributed to the committee members. If indicated the focus person may choose to write a more comprehensive statement with more history or other relevant information. A convener is chosen from the members of the committee and is responsible for the times and dates of the meetings. The Support Committee usually meets in the home of the focus person or another comfortable setting.
- The task of the group is to listen prayerfully and to raise questions to assist the focus person to center on the question. Questions need to be brief and probing for the focus person and not to satisfy the curiosity of the questioner. The members of the committee may need to be available to the focus person at different times to assist him/her as needed including prayerful consideration.
- The group will determine when it has achieved its goal and is ready to disband.