

RECOMMENDED COUNSELING SCHOLARSHIP PROTOCOLS

Below are recommended counseling scholarship protocols for your consideration when referring members of your congregation to the Biblical Counseling Center and when your church intends to contribute to the cost of their counseling.

- The candidate for a counseling scholarship must/should be a member in good standing with the church.
- The counseling required exceeds the expertise or time available through the pastoral staff of the church.
- The scholarship is limited to \$750 which may be reinstated upon review and recommendation by a member of the pastoral staff. When a scholarship is granted by the church the counselors at the Biblical Counseling Center agree to counsel at a reduced rate of \$75 per hour. This rate will not be exceeded for the duration of the scholarship. It is highly recommended that the counselee pay something, even if a very small amount, toward their counseling.
- The candidate must sign a release of information form with the Biblical Counseling Center permitting the counselor to confer with the pastoral staff of the church.
- The funds for the counseling, typically taken from the benevolence account, are managed by a board other than the pastoral staff. However, information shared with those involved in approving the scholarships is limited to the member's name, and a general report of the progress or lack of it. Additional information may be available upon the signed consent of the counselee. Most understand the issues of counseling require strictest confidentiality.
- The church, members of the approving board and the pastoral staff are indemnified and shall not to be held responsible for any legal actions brought by a church member for their counseling with the Biblical Counseling Center.

Confirmation of the church's agreement to pay toward counseling shall be made in writing. Fax or email is sufficient prior to the counselee's initial session when a scholarship is anticipated.