

CARE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The Care Committee consists of the Chairperson and volunteers who work in conjunction with the Minister to create an atmosphere of caring and support within the congregation.

MISSION STATEMENT

In the hope of becoming the Beloved Community, the committee works with the Minister to support UUFB members and friends in times of crisis or personal difficulty such as critical illness, grief, and major life stress.

STRATEGIES TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The committee will:

- Support the individual needs of UUFB members and friends who need help in coping with illness, death, and other personal or family crises.
- Will acknowledge celebratory occasions or other significant events through announcements or appropriate cards.

Information concerning the needs of members and friends can come from Joys and Concerns during the Sunday Worship Service, reports from the minister, other members, the Membership Committee Chairperson, and the members themselves. The person concerned will always be contacted to find out how and if we can provide support. The information will remain confidential unless permission is given to share by the person concerned.

Members of the Care Committee are lay volunteers. While volunteering in the congregation, they are not representing themselves as licensed clinical, counseling, holistic or medical service providers, regardless of any licensure they may hold.

Fellowship members may not advertise or charge for professional services as part of the Care Team response within UUFB.

Care Committee services are not intended to replace professional medical, clinical, social, or protective services or interventions, or to provide ongoing or repeated financial assistance.

All care situations will be shared with the minister, as they hold primary responsibility for the care ministry of the congregation. Personal details about the individual situation are not shared with other members unless the person involved explicitly requests or agrees that they be shared.

APPROPRIATE CARE TEAM RESPONSE

The Care Team's first task is to assess the person's needs. This is usually done by phone, in the congregant's home, or other comfortable setting. Through sensitive and compassionate listening and asking clarifying questions, a support plan will be developed.

The Care Committee can provide ill, incapacitated, or troubled congregation members with social visits and/or phone calls, support for minor household tasks such as pet walking, grocery pick-up, plant care, rides, meals, and minor home repairs as needed on a short-term or emergency basis.

The minister and Care Team Chairperson will retain a list of local support services and agencies to which they can make appropriate referrals and recommendations as needed. The Care Team does not duplicate the work of established social service programs. Due to resource limitations, the Minister and Care Team will usually provide assistance to UUFB members and friends only.

The minister has budgeted Discretionary Funds which they may use as they see appropriate need. In the event of multiple needs, priority will be given to those who have not previously received assistance. All requests for financial assistance must be approved by the minister.

The Care Team does not provide medical intervention (including administration of medications, dressing changes or wound treatments, dialysis, insulin administration, glucose testing, or diagnostic services); toileting/bathing assistance, or lifting assistance for persons with limited mobility.

Approved by UUFB Board, July 17, 2018.