

EQUIPPING FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY INSTITUTE & COUNSELING CENTER

E.L.M.I.C.C

**21 North Main Street, Coopersburg, PA 18036
610-282-8066 or 215-541-0441**

A MINISTRY OF THE GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

DIRECTOR: DR. WAYNE MACK

Are You Interested in Biblical Counseling at Equipping for Life and Ministry Counseling Center? If you are, we encourage you to please read the following statement and then sign at the designated place at the end of this document.

The counselors at Equipping for Life and Ministry Counseling Center are available to take a limited number of counseling cases. Our counselors (by design) are not certified by the state of Pennsylvania, but have had extensive training and experience in biblical counseling. All of the primary counselors hold undergraduate and graduate degrees in biblical counseling from accredited colleges and graduate schools such as The Master's College, The Master's Seminary and Westminster Theological Seminary. In addition to that they either have been certified by The National Association of Nouthetic Counselors or are in the process of being certified by that national organization. Dr. Wayne Mack, the director of the center has taught counseling at numerous undergraduate and graduate schools and has been the director of two counseling centers. He has also written numerous books and articles on biblical counseling and carries on a national and international teaching ministry on the subject of biblical counseling. Pastor Joshua Mack, who serves as Assistant Director, has taught in the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling program at The Master's College and has done much counseling in the pastorate.

If you seek counseling from E.L.M.C.C. we want you to know that **all counseling will be conducted in accordance with the counselor's understanding of the Scriptures.** Your counseling will be **biblical** meaning that the Scriptures will be the authority in all cases. If you are not sure that you will be interested in biblically-based counseling, you may first attend one or two sessions to discover what biblical counseling is like. If you are unwilling to use the Bible as the final authority and are unwilling to do the homework assigned, sessions will be terminated.

If you are attending a church other than Grace Fellowship Church of the Lehigh Valley, we encourage you to invite the pastor from your local church or someone in its leadership to accompany you to the counseling sessions. We recognize and respect the authority and the discipline of your church. This will also make the transfer back to the pastoral care of your church much easier to effect. If you are not attending a church or if your church is not structured to provide the kind of counseling received at ELMICC, we will expect you to attend Grace Fellowship Church of the Lehigh Valley on a weekly basis. Our experience has been that for changes in people to be lasting, people need more than the help they receive in formal counseling.

They need the total ministry of a church in which the preaching, teaching and fellowship are providing the same kind of help that is given in the counseling sessions.

Absolute confidentiality is not scriptural. In certain circumstances the Bible requires that facts be disclosed to selected others (Matt. 18:15ff). If your church leadership should inquire, we will disclose to them only that information which we believe is necessary for them to effectively and biblically fulfill their responsibility to shepherd you. If you have a problem with this procedure, please discuss your concerns and reasons for those concerns with your counselor.

At any time during the counseling, for reasons sufficient to himself/herself, the counselor -- as also the counselee -- shall have **the option of terminating** counseling.

ELMICC, a ministry of Grace Fellowship Church of the Lehigh Valley, does not charge a specific fee for counseling. However, since there are costs involved in maintaining this ministry, counselees may want to express their thanks and help maintain the ministry in a tangible way. Donations should be made to Grace Fellowship Church, not to the counselor. Also, part of the weekly homework assignments may require purchasing materials that relate to the counseling being done. Counselees are expected to pay for this material.

It should be understood that biblical counseling will involve giving scriptural teaching and making practical application of the same to each individual. **The counselee is held fully responsible for how he implements that counsel.**

Here at ELMCC we not only do counseling, but are devoted to training biblical counselors. This means that the counselor may have one to two people assisting him/her in each counseling session.

We are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). There are no problems between persons or in persons that the Bible fails to address either in general or specific principles. Our counselors are not infallible, nor do they pretend to know all there is to know about biblical teaching and its applications to life, but they are well equipped and competent to help people change. They will make a point to differentiate between God's commands and their suggestions. Counselors will also honestly tell you if they are stymied and will seek help. (Please note that we do not give medical or legal advice).

If a conflict should arise between the counselee and the counselor, both parties must agree to resolve the dispute outside the secular court system. Conciliation will be sought under submission to and direction of the elders of Grace Fellowship Church of the Lehigh Valley.

If you are willing to enter into the kind of counseling described in this statement, please sign below as indicated and bring this signed form with you to your first counseling session..

I have read the conditions for counseling set forth in this Brochure and agree to enter into counseling in accordance with them:

Signed _____

Date _____