



Prayer Partner Ministry

Policies and Procedures

First Baptist Church Port Charlotte



Prayer Partners Ministry

A Prayer Partner

- a spiritually mature church member
- approved to serve by one of the pastors
- willing to abide by the guidelines herein
- ministers to those who come forward at the decision time of a worship service

Leadership

A Prayer Partner Council led by Jim & Nicki Hall oversee this ministry.

Why we Serve

The purpose of having Prayer Partners at the decision time is to provide loving, wise, Spirit-led prayer support and Biblical guidance to those coming forward to the altar at that time, or following a Service. They will also be available to record decisions for follow up.

When to Serve

Prayer Partners will not be assigned to services. Instead, all Partners will be asked to be available each week in whichever service they are attending.

At the decision time, as soon as the Pastor calls for Prayer Partners, if you are led to serve, immediately:

1. Put on your Prayer Partner nametag (we will provide for you to keep)
2. Freshen your breath
3. Move into position, face the congregation, smile, keep your eyes open, and be prayerfully prepared to minister to someone who would come to you.

If you are not led to serve on that Sunday, remain at your seat. It is our goal to have many Prayer Partners across the front of the worship center, prepared to receive and minister to any who would respond. If you were to come forward and sense that there were already enough Partners in place, please linger by the front row and consider moving into place if there was significant response and more Partners were needed.



Follow Up

After listening and praying, if you feel the person needs follow up or it is requested, or if there is a decision to record, obtain a clipboard and complete the form for the person. Make sure to put your name and phone # in case the Staff have questions. Give the form to a Staff Minister so we can have it for follow up. Feel free to follow up yourself as led.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why am I praying with people?

We pray to help usher people before the Lord to receive His ministry. The Holy Spirit will show you how best to do that.

2. Do I counsel them?

This is not our counseling ministry. Unless you feel specifically led and prepared by the Lord, if a person desires counseling, they can call the church office "Monday, anytime after 9:00AM," and make an appointment with a minister (don't promise an appointment with the pastor, please!) This is not putting the person off, but rather properly directing them to those gifted to help in their particular needs.

Notes: If it is an extremely desperate situation for which you feel unprepared, please take the person to a minister.

Do recommend a Sunday School class.

3. What tools should I have with me?

The minimum tools every Prayer Partner needs: an attentive spirit submissive to the Holy Spirit, a Bible nearby, and breath mints/strips.

Please familiarize yourself with the Prayer Partner bins containing ministry tools to use.

4. What if I need help?

If you listen to the person's needs, but do not believe you are the right person to minister to them, sensitively excuse yourself for a moment, letting the person know you would like to have more assistance in ministering to them. Then go and find a Minister to assist you.

5. If we are at the front during decision time, what do we say?

- 1) Introduce yourself and ask their name. (Write it down so you can remember it.)
- 2) "How can we pray for you?"



6. How many Prayer Partners per person requesting prayer?

Please arrange yourselves so there are two Prayer Partners for each person. This provides greater wisdom and for the scriptural “prayer of agreement”.

7. What about men praying with women and vice versa?

We ask that men pray for men and women pray for women.
(Couples can pray for either.)

8. Should I talk a lot or listen a lot?

“Be quick to listen and slow to speak.” The person may take some time to get to the root of an issue. It is wise to ask appropriate questions and let them talk. You can speak on behalf of the Lord as led, but please remember they have come for prayer.

9. Should I touch the person?

Be careful about touching. We can be an affectionate church, but not everyone is comfortable with this.

10. What if there is a lot of noise around us?

Please try and let the person know he is very important by giving good eye contact and affirmation. If things get too distracting or the music is too loud, find another room, **but** never enter another room with only yourself and another person of the opposite gender. This is another reason why couples are ideal as Prayer Partners.

11. Can I share this person’s needs with others for prayer support?

Confidentiality will maintain the integrity of our ministry, just as sharing details about what we were told can undermine our credibility and damage our ministry. It could also result in liability. Keep it between you and the Lord. It may be helpful to assure the person of this. If you feel it must be shared, ASK FOR PERMISSION: otherwise, you must keep it between you and the Lord.

Confidentiality is often broken in the form of “prayer requests” being shared. We must not do this. If it is an issue that you feel cannot be kept confidential, please take it to a minister. Issues that we cannot agree to confidentiality about are suicide, physical abuse, and sexual abuse or activity with a child. These must be reported to one of the elders and then appropriate governmental authorities for liability, as well as safety reasons.



12. Should I anoint with oil those requesting healing?

Anointing with oil is a ministry of the Ministers according to James 5. Please direct anyone requesting to be anointed with oil to a Minister or someone trained in this ministry: however, feel free to pray and believe God for a healing.

13. What if something is said or done where I feel uncomfortable?

God is leading many people from a variety of backgrounds to come to our church. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, please excuse yourself and ask for a Minister's assistance. If all are busy, ask the person to pray for a moment while you wait for the assistance.

Please remember how vital it is to be "prayed up" for ministry and to be alert to the enemy's goal to "divide and conquer" us. Trust God for His grace and wisdom and respond to each situation in faith.

14. What if I discern spiritual warfare?

There may be someone in spiritual bondage. We prefer this ministry not take place in public, but in a private location. We have found that a person being delivered may have some manifestations that are embarrassing. Please seek a minister for direction. We believe an appointment with a minister may be the best way to handle this, unless it is a crisis. If it is a crisis, seek assistance. We know God will give us grace.

15. What about children and youth who come?

It is vital that we set an example for all children by honoring their parents. Before ministering to a child or youth, be sure to ask such questions as:

"Are your parents here? Do they know you have come?"

"May I have your phone number to speak with them about your coming?"

16. What about someone's salvation?

Do not assume a person is truly born again. A person under conviction of the Holy Spirit may not understand what is happening to them. If there is any doubt in your mind or cautions in your spirit, ask questions such as:

"Before we pray, may I ask you a question? Do you know that if you died tonight, you would go to heaven? (pause for answer) Suppose you had to stand before God, and He asked you, 'Why should I let you into Heaven,' what would you say?"



17. What about tongues or a prayer language?

Because of its controversial nature, we ask that all refrain from speaking in tongues, aloud or whispered quietly, during this ministry time.

18. What about baptism?

We offer baptism on a regular basis. An informational brochure is available in the bin, as well as the welcome center and church office. It should answer their questions about baptism. You can offer to share their desire to be baptized with Pastor Bill who oversees baptism.

19. Whom am I depending on to meet the needs of people requesting prayer?

We are not relying on our own strength or knowledge to accomplish this ministry. We are relying on God's grace and His Spirit. He is faithful. He is the one ministering to these precious people. We are His ambassadors. He will be faithful to help us with whatever we need.

Notes:

