

## AN INVITATION TO THE PASTOR AS SHEPHERD

We invite you to experience **The Pastor as Shepherd**, an innovative program that provides an opportunity for clergy to refresh and develop their basic pastoral skills with the goal of functioning better in the shepherding of congregations. The content of the program is designed to meet the majority of the requirements for Pastoral Care Specialist (PCS), a non-certified category of membership in The American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC).

**The Pastor as Shepherd** will span nine months (September–May) with monthly meetings to include presentations and consultations. Presentations will be based on Peter Steinke's *Healthy Congregations* workshops with additional material addressing content areas listed by AAPC for PCS didactics including Pastoral Care Theology and Principles, Crisis Intervention, Substance Abuse, Grief and Loss, Supportive Counseling for Parishioners, Diagnosis, and Referral.

**The Pastor as Shepherd** will be held in *Room 100, Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, 1114 Oxmoor Road, Homewood, AL 35209, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.* Generally, from 9a-12p we will engage in training, and from 1p-4p will spend time in case consultation. The proposed meeting schedule is listed below:

### Proposed Meeting Dates

September 20, 2010

October 11, 2010

November 8, 2010

December 13, 2010

January 10, 2011

February 7, 2011 (followed by a group dinner for you and a guest)

March 7, 2011

April 11, 2011

May 2, 2011

While we understand the demands and requirements of pastors, we expect participants and their congregations to make this time commitment a priority. The meeting dates are flexible and may be changed if necessary and mutually agreed upon by the facilitators and participants.

Partial funding for these workshops comes through a grant from the Lilly Endowment to Samford University's Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence. The cost to the participant is \$450. Materials, lunch, and morning and afternoon refreshments are included. Space is limited.

### **Facilitators:**

Bart Grooms, M.Div., M.Ed., Clinical Director, Samaritan Counseling Center

Paul Johnson, M.Ed, Executive Director, Samaritan Counseling Center

Please complete **The Pastor as Shepherd** application and Covenant Agreement and follow the instructions accordingly.

APPLICATION FOR  
***THE PASTOR AS SHEPHERD***

Please enclose your vita/resume, supplemented by any information below that it does not already cover.

Please answer the following questions in typed double-spaced pages.

1. Personal information:
  - Full Name
  - Address
  - Phone
  - E-mail
  - Age
  - Description of congregation and how long you have been there
  - Previous pastoral experience (other churches and ministry programs)
  - Other leadership roles
  - Education history
2. What has attracted you to the **Pastor as Shepherd** program?
3. Describe your most difficult challenges as a pastor.
4. How do you find sustainment and refreshment?
5. Describe your family relationships and how your role as a pastor affects these.

Send your application to Samaritan Counseling Center to the attention of Paul Johnson at

**Samaritan Counseling Center, 2872 Acton Road, Birmingham, AL 35243**

Or you may e-mail it to [paul@samaritancc.org](mailto:paul@samaritancc.org)

Or you may fax it at 205-967-3664.

**PASTOR AS SHEPHERD  
COVENANT AGREEMENT**

MINISTER:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand the importance of maintaining my spiritual, emotional, relational, and professional health so that I can provide high quality leadership in my church and community, and thereby help others be healthy in these areas. I hereby agree to be committed to the **Pastor as Shepherd** program for pastoral excellence. I further agree to set aside time for the scheduled meetings as well as time for preparation for those meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

CONGREGATION:

We, \_\_\_\_\_ Church, understand the importance of our minister maintaining his/her spiritual, emotional, relational, and professional health so that he/she can be at their best in helping our church and community be healthy in these areas. We hereby agree to grant him/her the time and resources necessary to be fully engaged in the **Pastor as Shepherd** program for pastoral excellence. We further agree to pray for him/her during this year and will provide a time of recognition and celebration upon completion.

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (office)

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER:

We, Samaritan Counseling Centers of Greater Birmingham, understand the need for ministerial excellence in our community. We covenant with this congregation and minister, through the **Pastor as Shepherd** program, to provide opportunities for the minister to grow in regard to spiritual, emotional, and relational health; to provide skills training for him/her to maintain such growth and health throughout his/her ministry; and to be a resource in helping him/her be an informed and effective leader in the church and community.

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)  
Executive Director