

Our Goal—Our goal in providing biblical discipleship is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life.

Biblical Basis—We believe that the bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. (II Peter 1:3 and Romans 15:4.) Therefore, our discipleship is based solely on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry.

Not Professional Advice—In accepting intensive discipleship services, it is important for you to realize that our biblical counselors are not professionals in the medical, psychological, psychiatric or legal fields. If you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from independent professionals not associated with Highland Park Baptist Church. Our pastoral and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant biblical principles. By signing this “Consent to Biblical Discipleship,” you agree to hold Highland Park Baptist Church harmless in any and all matters associated with the biblical advice you have received.

Confidentiality—Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. However, because we are continually training others to be effective counselors, we ask that you agree to allow counselors in training to be present during your sessions. Counselors shall be free to discuss counseling sessions and cases with other HPBC counselors and the pastors of the Highland Park Baptist Church, Southfield, Michigan in order to gain the benefit of additional insight and input.

There are four other situations when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: (1) when a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor or elder in this church; (2) when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders; (3) when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless we otherwise intervene; or (4) when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20.) Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and they will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

Resolution of Conflicts—On rare occasions a conflict may arise between counselor and counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflict will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with the counselor or with this church as a result of counseling will be settled with mediation within the church according to the principles of scripture and the authority of this local church.

Having clarified the principles and policies of our intensive discipleship ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ and to be used by Him as He helps you to grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with a pastor or elder. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____