

## Terminology:

### **Pastoral Support Team:**

A team of people in each "cluster" (a group of 3 or 4 cell groups) to provide pastoral care in that cluster.

### **Pastoral Facilitator:**

A couple or individual in each cluster responsible for leading the pastoral support team and facilitating the pastoral care in the cluster. They are Anne Dodds, Barrie & Alison Walker, David & Alison Wilson and Andrew & Kirsty Hook.

### **Pastoral Leaders:**

A team of people who oversee the pastoral care of the church. The team includes the pastoral facilitators and Iain Archibald (who is responsible for Marriage Training in the church); Ann Symes (who helps in the oversight of the clusters); David Hewitt (who co-ordinates the community building events, new people & welcome, and cells) and Rupert Ward (who leads the team).



*...we want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.*

*Col 1:28 (NLT)*

"It's about relationship and life"



COMMUNITY CHURCH EDINBURGH

The King's Hall  
41a South Clerk Street  
Edinburgh  
EH9 3EF

Phone: 0131 466 8660  
Web: [www.cce.uk.net](http://www.cce.uk.net)  
E-mail: [office@cce.uk.net](mailto:office@cce.uk.net)

## Confidentiality Policy September 2005



# Confidentiality Policy

It is important that people feel safe talking about their life story within our church community. They should be confident that anything they share is not going to be told to other people, or used against them at a later date.

However, it is also important that the Pastoral Leaders have an awareness and oversight of people, and the pastoral care given, in the church. There is a God-given mandate to the leaders in a community to care for, guide and protect people within that community (for example 1 Pet 5:2). This document sets out the policy we have in Community Church to protect the confidentiality of stories people share, while taking seriously this mandate from God and giving the best care we can to people in the church.

So:

1. It is an individual's responsibility in the church to ask for help if they require it.
2. We would encourage a person in the midst of a difficult pastoral situation to find a couple of friends who would agree to pray for them during the challenging season they are in.
3. We aim to respect people and their stories. We will try to help restore

people, without any details of their stories being told to others. However, in some situations, when there are more complex or weighty pastoral issues, it is helpful to have others involved. This is for the benefit of the person involved (to make sure the best possible care is given to them) and the care-giver (that they don't have to carry others' stories without an appropriate place for them to talk and seek advice about the help they are giving).

4. In such a situation, we will agree a "circle of confidentiality" with the person. This would be a group of agreed people who are informed of the issues. People in this group would include one of the Pastoral Leaders and may also include some of the person's friends.
5. Pastoral Issues will not be discussed in public (either small or large meetings), but only in the circle of confidentiality agreed with the individual.
6. Outside the circle of confidentiality, details of pastoral situations are not



discussed, unless they are so serious as to affect or threaten the health of the church, where they would be discussed in the Leadership Team and

*We aim to respect people and their stories ...*

among the Pastoral Leaders as appropriate.

7. The Pastoral Leaders would be informed that there are pastoral matters with the person concerned, but not the details of those matters. This is to help the Pastoral Leaders avoid duplication of care and help, and know who is helping who. Even this information will be treated as confidential among the Pastoral Leaders.
8. If a cell leader, or others in the church become aware of someone working through a long-term or more weighty pastoral issue, we would like them to inform one of the Pastoral Leaders, to enable the church to respond sensitively with appropriate support and care.
9. Where someone has broken the Law of the Land, rather than the Law of the Lord, we cannot be held to keeping that information confidential, and may report the information to the legal authorities. We would first try to help the person see that they need to report the information, rather than us.

## COMMUNITY CHURCH EDINBURGH

The King's Hall  
41a South Clerk Street  
Edinburgh  
EH9 3EF

Phone: 0131 466 8660  
Web: [www.cce.uk.net](http://www.cce.uk.net)  
E-mail: [office@cce.uk.net](mailto:office@cce.uk.net)