

Thanks for the opportunity to introduce myself and this position/office. I was *appointed (January 2017) by the Ministerial Committee as “Chaplain of Member (Pastor) Care” for POW. Which means I have been given the privilege and responsibility of getting to know, encourage and care for pastors like you! (*EPC funded, i.e., no \$ cost to you!!)

I have been in pastoral ministry for over thirty years in local churches (for twenty-plus years at CHCC in Colorado), and during the last four years have been working as a pastor-at-large (out-of-bounds/evangelist), affiliated professor and marriage & family therapist – now residing in Fort Collins, Colorado with my wife Kim and most of our family.

The genesis of this new position (description below) is the awareness of the growing challenges and difficulties pastors (spouse and family) encounter in the ministry. These challenges can lead to burnout, compassion fatigue, discouragement, isolation and a variety of false strategies for coping. (Hopefully you are experiencing some joys and victories as well!!)

Whatever your life situation may be, we as a denomination, and myself as a pastor, want to be there for and with you. This is not a watchdog position; in fact I have absolutely no authority other than the freedom to offer ***spiritual friendship*** in the name of Christ – along with a coffee, meal or a *recreating* activity of your choosing. And unless there is a literal life-threatening scenario to be addressed – all conversations are completely confidential, a *sacred trust*, i.e., this office is a safe place to confide fears, frustrations, failures – and successes.

Being there for you means being available through e-mail, phone and on-line conversations, as well as local visits (*just ask!*). It also means helping you connect with other local pastors and resources for your growth, strengthening and care. Please feel free to contact me through the means provided below.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

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Position Description

Objective: To provide strategic pastoral care to the Ministers of the Word in the Presbytery of the West (POW) and maintain on-going personal contact in order to create a vibrant supportive relationship within our Presbytery.

Justification:

1. Satisfy an important need to provide Pastoral support and care on behalf of the POW for member pastors. This would include ministers who are active, retired, active without a call, outside the bounds or in transition. [L] [SEP]
2. Strengthening an on-going relationships with our Pastors will help them better connect with other members of our Presbytery thereby benefitting their Ruling Elders and congregations. [L] [SEP]
3. By becoming more proactive in meeting with our Pastors, we will have the ability to possibly head off both personal and church conflicts should they arise. [L] [SEP]

Qualifications:

1. Meets the qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Luke 10:30-37, I Peter 5:1-3. [L] [SEP]
2. Member in good standing of the POW. [L] [SEP]
3. Has served in pastoral ministry for at least 8 years. [L] [SEP]
4. Proven relational, communication, follow-up and follow-thru skills. [L] [SEP]
5. 3 years serving on Ministerial Committee preferred. [L] [SEP]
6. Ability to discern and understand confidentiality is a sacred trust. [L] [SEP]

Responsibilities:

This part-time 10-15 hour a week position requires the following:

1. Make regular personal contact with Ministers of the Word within the POW. [L] [SEP]
2. Pray for pastors and come alongside of them by being fully present and practicing active [L] [SEP] listening. [L] [SEP]
3. Be available to provide personal support on call as needed, which may include hospital [L] [SEP] visitation, hospitality at POW meetings, or regular personal phone or Skype contact. [L] [SEP]
4. Be knowledgeable of available resources to support and encourage pastors. [L] [SEP]
5. Develop regular communication plan by means of personal phone conversations, Skype, [L] [SEP] or some other effective video communication and tracking all contacts. [L] [SEP]

6. Develop and encourage a system of mutual support among pastors within the Presbytery (e.g., monthly contact with four to six pastors).
7. Coordinate member care within the Ministerial Committee.
8. Serve as an advocate for pastors within the POW.
9. Consult with Ministerial Committee on guidelines for member care with the POW (e.g., Pastoral Care Plan, Confidentiality Practices, Severance Package and Sabbatical policies, etc.).
10. Attend all POW and General Assembly meetings.

Bio

Mike was born in the Chicago area and adopted into a Swedish bible believing home. At the age of seven, he said, "yes" to Christ and was baptized during junior high. He attended Bethel College (now University) where he met his wife Kim whom he married 39 years ago. Mike has served Christ as a full-time pastor for 30-plus years particularly in the areas of youth, family, marriage, counseling, teaching and pastoral care. Over three years ago Mike transitioned into pastor-at-large work which now includes campus ministry to grad students and faculty, adjunct teaching, marriage & family counseling as a licensed therapist, soul-care mentoring for spiritual growth and healing. Mike is a graduate of Bethel and Denver seminaries, a father of three and a grandfather of five. Mike has a particular interest in (besides biking, reading, trees, coffee, Rook and Frisbee) knowing, loving, and following Jesus Christ and encouraging others to do the same.