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PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE

24 June 2017

The Vine Conference Centre
Dunfermline



The Church of Scotland

SESSION I

WHAT is Pastoral Care? & WHY do we care?



AIM

- We shall begin by asking ‘what is pastoral care?’
- We shall seek to define its meaning, understand its history and explore its theology.
- We shall spend a brief moment considering what pastoral care is not, before going on to consider three words that may inform our pastoral imagination and provide a vision for why we care?



PLAN

1. 'The Lord is my Shepherd'
2. Pastoral Care: a brief definition
3. Pastoral Care: a brief history
4. Pastoral Care: a brief theology
5. Pastoral Care: what it is not
6. Pastoral Care: a vision



GROUP DISCUSSION I

- What does Pastoral Care mean to you?
- Based on your personal experience, how would you define Pastoral Care?



THE SHEPHERD

PSALM 23

King David wrote, 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil:
for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff - they comfort me.'



THE SHEPHERD

JOHN 10

Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd... I am the good shepherd, I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.'



THE SHEPHERD

EZEKIEL 34.4

‘You have not strengthened the weak,
you have not healed the sick,
you have not bound up the injured,
you have not brought back the strays,
you have not sought the lost.’



THE SHEPHERD

EZEKIEL 34.11-16

(God said) 'I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out...
I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered...
I will bring them out from the peoples...
I will feed them with good pasture...
I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down...
I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,
and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.'



WHAT IS PASTORAL CARE?

A BRIEF HISTORY

- Healing
- Sustaining
- Guiding
- Reconciling



WHAT IS PASTORAL CARE?

A BRIEF THEOLOGY

The four acts of ISAIAH 6:

- The act of praise and worship
- The act of confession
- The act of forgiveness
- The act of sending



WHAT IS PASTORAL CARE?

Stephen Pattison,

‘Pastoral Care is that activity, undertaken especially by representative Christian persons, directed towards the elimination and relief of sin and sorrow and the presentation of all people perfect in Christ to God’.



WHAT IS PASTORAL CARE?

Alastair Campbell,

Pastoral Care are ‘Those activities of the Church which are directed towards maintaining or restoring the health and wholeness of individuals and communities in the context of God’s redemptive purposes for all creation... It has one fundamental aim: to help people to know love, both as something to be received and as something to give’.



WHAT IS PASTORAL CARE?

Pastoral Care is concerned with:

- Offering emotional, mental, physical and spiritual healing;
- Strengthening and sustaining those who find themselves in difficult places;
- Providing counsel and guidance for those who find themselves lost and in need of direction;
- Presenting the opportunity of reconciliation to those who are estranged from others / God.



GROUP DISCUSSION 2

- Take two minutes in pairs to reflect on what I am suggesting and what you discussed earlier when you described what Pastoral Care means to you.
- What do you agree / disagree with?



WHAT PASTORAL CARE IS NOT

- Pastoral Care is NOT professional counselling.
- Pastoral Care is NOT about fixing problems.
- Pastoral Care is NOT about 'Me'.



A VISION OF PASTORAL CARE

- Shalom
- Hope
- The Beloved



CONCLUSION

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GROUP DISCUSSION 3

- Reflect on what we have thought about this morning.
- Have you heard anything that was new or different that might help you to reflect differently upon your pastoral practices?

