

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH REGINA
TERMS OF REFERENCE
CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMISSION
(draft #4, June 3, 2015)

Vision:

Future oriented - what we want to see happen as a result of our actions.

We exist to develop healthy followers of Jesus Christ within a healthy church.

Mission:

Present oriented - what we do to achieve our vision, who we do it for, how and why.

We equip, encourage and empower FBC members and adherents to care for each other. We will achieve this through the development of a) care groups, b) specific training for members to support others in times of need, and c) hospitality.

Values:

What we believe, what guides our decisions and actions in carrying out our mission, what defines our culture.

1. **Each person has value**, having been created in the image of God.
2. As members of the body of Christ, **we are responsible to care for one another**. As God is faithful to us, we are faithful to each other, especially in times of spiritual, emotional and physical need. God guides us in caring and supporting each other through Bible study, prayer, fellowship, service and reconciliation.
3. **You are safe**. Your needs and aspirations are treated with respect and kept in confidence. Through Christ we offer a listening heart, grace, forgiveness and support.
4. **You “belong”**. You are welcomed and invited to belong. You are not forgotten, ignored, or excluded. We encourage you to develop and use your spiritual gifts for the benefit of the body of Christ. A small supportive group is a part of your welcoming community.

Key action strategies:

How we put our plans into action.

1. Ensure that **all people are included**, no one is invisible.
Examples: youth, young adults, adults, mature adults, seniors, elderly, shut-ins, peripheral/ connected, unplugged, unengaged, on the move, newcomers, visitors, LGBT, visitors, imprisoned, hurting (poverty, addictions, grief, divorce, mental health,) extended church (alumni, partners, missionaries, persecuted)
2. **People are able to care for one another** when they are:
 - a. Motivated
 - b. Equipped
 - c. Facilitated
3. The Commission **facilitates congregational care** through **three focus areas**:
 - a. **People Caring for People** – Care Groups
 - i. Identify the features of a successful Care Group
 - ii. Encourage individuals to belong to a group
 - iii. Equip and provide ongoing support and mentorship for leaders
 - b. **One-on-one Caring**
 - i. Send a team for Stephen Ministry training
 - ii. These trained leaders will then mentor volunteers in our church
 - iii. Trained volunteers are paired with those in need
 - c. **Hospitality**
 - i. Encourage and equip people
 - ii. Facilitate opportunities for people to be hospitable.
 - iii. Event Management, primarily through teams, coordinated and supervised by a manager.
 - iv. Events include: Time for Friends, Patio Parties, BBQ's, Annual Picnic, Celebrations, Fundraisers, etc.
4. **Hurting people** are cared for primarily by:
 - a. their Care Group or informal support group
 - b. one-on-one Caring - specially trained people & volunteers of the church
 - c. pastors
 - d. prayer chains
 - e. partner agencies (Caring Place, Options Preg. Centre, Open Doors, etc.)
5. Provide a **safe and functional environment**. The commission attends to practical matters relating to the kitchen including inventory, procedural instructions and policies.
6. The Congregational Care Commission works within the **organizational structure** and **bylaws** of First Baptist Church Regina. It is informed by Baptist principles identified in "The Baptist Congregation" (Stanley Grenz, Carey Theological College). Commission members are elected for two-year terms, confirmed yearly. The chair represents the commission to the Church Board; and works in partnership with the Pastoral Liaison and the Diaconate Liaison.