



Christian Mentoring

JOHN MALLISON MINISTRIES

PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS

(Summary of Plenary Session at Australian Clergy Caregivers Conference – February, 2003)

1) AIM:

- To facilitate appropriate professional behaviour

2) WHAT IS INVOLVED:

- Control (a 'fear word')
- Accountability
- Role model exercise
- Spiritual, personal & professional growth
- Encouragement
- Support
- Validation and Direction
- Expectation that theological and pastoral reflection takes place
- Empowerment
- Personal Growth
- Confrontation – challenge
- Educative
- Intentional -- regular
- Interpersonal – relational
- Intensive
- Should involve a covenant
- Scheduled reviews
- Not a passing relationship
- Can be undermined by conflict of interest
- Permission to terminate if not working (initial trial)
- Need to connect with each other
- Different for different people (Clarify mutual expectations)
- Not a program – always a process
- Safe context to reflect

3) TASK:

- Promote health and growth
- Facilitate spiritual growth
- Help examine boundaries (relationships, compliance)
- Debrief critical incidents
- Enable reflection upon, and analysis of experiences and planning for future (Experienced Based Education)
- Aid theological reflection – on role
- Examine pastoral practice, behaviour and actions and flaws for future action in similar structures

4) RECIPIENTS SHOULD NOT EXPECT:

- Hierarchical oversight
- Overly directive supervision
- Counselling (disguised therapy)
- Third party counselling (someone absent)

5) PEER SUPERVISION IN GROUPS

- Supplemental to individual supervision in groups
- Not seen as good as one on one
- Deals with a few issues
- Not advice-giving
- Individual and collective reflection

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