

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED PASTORAL  
CARE RESPONSE SYSTEM TO ILLNESS, CRISIS,  
AND GRIEF AT NORTH POINT CHURCH,  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI**

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An estimated one million Americans will die every year. A percentage of those who are ill, dying, or grieving will be members of a local congregation. Because of this, the local church has the opportunity to minister comfort and compassion toward those who suffer.

This project is the development of an integrated pastoral care response system to illness, crisis, and grief at North Point Church (NPC) in Springfield, Missouri. NPC began on September 7, 2003. By the start of this project, the average church attendance was 1,300 during the Sunday morning services. The quick growth of the church resulted in an underdeveloped pastoral care ministry.

The development of this project concentrated on creating new ministries to enhance the ministry of the pastoral staff. A team of trained laypeople now minister to those who are hurting. This releases the pastoral staff to focus their energies on other pastoral leadership issues. It has also helped to create a culture of care in this church.

The project describes this ministry from a biblical perspective and supports its therapeutic effectiveness through a review of the literature. Scripture mandates that the church's response toward those who suffer be with the compassion of Christ. Based on the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10, this project challenges the local church to develop an active pastoral care ministry that will offer a continuum of care toward those who suffer from illness, crisis, and grief. The development of this project is in response to Christ's mandate in Luke 10:37 to "Go and do likewise."