

Shepherding Team Open Meeting Policy

The Shepherding Team (ST) is responsible for both the business and the spiritual leadership of the church. In order to preserve the openness and transparency of church business but also to protect the confidentiality of spiritual needs of the church and its Members, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Two Sundays prior to the scheduled ST meeting, the meeting will be announced to the church body.
2. Church Members with concerns or issues are invited to contact the ST chairman if they wish to attend the ST meeting
3. The Chair will then notify the ST of the persons attending and the nature of their concerns or issues.
4. The first portion of the ST meeting will be given to All Souls business, which will generally be open to all Members who have asked to be present. Each Member will be given an opportunity to make a statement, and the ST may ask questions to clarify. A Member may also ask that other invited Members not be present during their talk with the ST, in order to preserve any need for confidentiality, or the ST may ask other Members to step out of the room if any Member's concern or issue may involve matters the ST deems confidential.
5. The Chair will be responsible for monitoring the time allocated to guest Members in light of the other business of the ST and for limiting the time allocated to guest Members as needed.
6. When a decision is made on the issue, by either the discernment team or the Shepherding Team respectively, a member of the discernment team or the Shepherding Team will be selected to discuss the decision with the member who presented the request or issue in question. It is recommended that the Church Pastor call the member after the decision is communicated to provide any necessary pastoral support.
7. The second portion of the ST meeting will be open only to current ST members. The need for confidentiality of shared spiritual needs of All Souls members is sacred, both as to guest Members at meetings and as to the All Souls body at large after meetings, except as decided by the ST with regard to reporting to the congregation.

So it is with this two-fold purpose, openness and transparency to All Souls members and confidentiality of member needs that the Shepherding Team adopts this policy. Our goal is to serve God and All Souls in a manner that is pleasing to Him.