



# LAY COUNSELOR SELECTION CRITERIA

## Eligibility

Any member in good standing of First Baptist Church Atlanta and has been an active and involved member for a minimum of one year, sensing a godly call to the Counseling Ministry and desiring to receive training toward that end, is eligible to apply to the Counseling Ministry for training.

## Selection Criteria

Prospective Lay Counselors are to be evaluated by the counseling staff. The following are personal characteristics desired in counselors:

- Personal commitment to Jesus Christ and compatibility with the theological beliefs and mission statement of First Baptist Church Atlanta
- Christian maturity and growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord
- Scripturally baptized by immersion
- Working knowledge of the Bible and ability to apply biblical principles
- Personal moral standards, ethics, and behavior consistent with scripture
- Stability and indications of brokenness evidenced by spiritual and emotional maturity
- Evidence of a gift of counseling; e.g., nurturing, democratic attitude, open, self-disclosing, reflective, able to deal with strong emotions, sensitivity to the needs of others, non-defensive
- Personal warmth and caring demonstrated by experience in helping others; e.g., teaching, volunteer work of a relational nature, etc
- Ability to communicate clearly and listen attentively
- Willingness to submit to and articulate the position of the First Baptist Church Atlanta's policies on abortion, homosexuality, divorce and re-marriage and sex outside of marriage
- Ability to work with others, flexibility and willingness to receive direction and constructive criticism
- Willingness to commit to the required training program and a minimum of one year of service through the Lay Counseling Ministry
- Willingness to make the Counseling Ministry their priority, his/her ministry, and avoid involvement in other major ministries of the church that would cause a conflict with the training schedule or counseling



After successfully completing the credentialing requirements, the trainee may be invited to participate as a Lay Counselor. There is no guarantee of acceptance.

Each certified Lay Counselor must agree to maintain and improve his or her knowledge and practice of counseling. Participation in all scheduled training sessions, seminars, and reading, listening and viewing recommended resources by the Counseling Ministry will meet this requirement.

## **Selection Procedures**

Anyone interested in becoming a Lay Counselor should email, call or visit the Counseling Ministry office to be placed on the application waiting list. You will be notified when the current year application process opens and will be sent an application packet. The selection process involves:

1. Completing the Application Packet for Lay Counselor Training
2. Interview with a staff counselor

The final decision on all applicants rests with the Director of the Counseling Ministry.