**Compassion Team**

August 2021

# Vision

*‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’* (Matthew 25:40)

The Pastoral Care Ministry of Compassion helps the church community to respond immediately and in ongoing ways to times of practical, spiritual or emotional need. This happens through a Compassion Team that “triages” crises as they arise to discern the level of assistance needed and then calls on a pool of volunteers to respond as necessary.

# Role and responsibilities of the Compassion Team

Oversight

* Triage needs and crises of the congregation
* Relate to and coordinate delegation to "pastoral carers" whose responses may include: visiting, contacting, providing a listening ear, prayer, sending cards, food, driving, shopping, childcare, translating, referral (internal and external) etc

Support, educate and inform

* Team members familiarise themselves with and work within the UCA Code of Ethics
* Team members familiarise themselves with and work within the BUC Culture of Safety policy
* Attend orientation and training sessions provided for the team and other pastoral carers
* Attend regular team meetings
* Help groups and individuals within the congregation to celebrate the care they offer
* Provide information to the congregation on how to ask for help
* Support and train the congregation in caring for one another

Prayer Group

* Oversee (and participate in) prayer group

Reporting requirements

* The Compassion Ministry reports to the Pastoral Care Oversight Committee (one member of the team is on the Pastoral Care Oversight Committee)

Meetings – Members to:

* Attend monthly meetings regularly as a group of Compassion ministers and work as a team communicating about crises and assistance needed within the BUC congregation
* Attend Joint meetings twice annually where all pastoral care teams meet together

# Volunteer Characteristics

* A good communicator face to face and via electronic means
* Obtain an up-to-date Working with Children Check (WWCC)
* Regular worship attendance
* Sensitivity when relating to people in crises
* Confidentiality regarding the information gained in carrying out the role and responsibilities
* A good connector of people / resources / ideas
* Good at delegating / organising
* Willing to help people in the congregation and in our community of communities to respond pastorally to needs that arise
* Available to attend meetings and training