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Proposal for a Domestic Violence Policy and Building a Church-Based Response Team

Prepared by Katharine Ray and Women's Ministry Leader

Under the leadership of the Lead Pastor, the Executive Pastor, the Care and Counseling Pastor and the Counseling Minister, we submit the following proposal for a church-wide domestic violence policy and church-based response team. The purpose of this proposal is to have a church policy in place, preferably by beginning of August 2020, for the disclosures of abuse that will happen once the women's Bible study begins. This policy will help Faith Youngsville be ready to tackle this difficult and controversial issue within the church rather than being unprepared and unsure of how to proceed. We recommend addressing this issue through a team-based approach that consists of pastors, ministry leaders, and community resources who together are more equipped to accompany the Holy Spirit in providing healing.

Target Group: Victims of abuse (for their safety) AND perpetrators of abuse (for their accountability). This is **NOT** marriage counseling, so they should be counseled separately.

Material for Training:

- I. Domestic Abuse and the Church Video series by Chris Moles (Online)
 - a. All Church Pastors involved in implementation of policy, Ministry Leaders and the women's ministry leadership team.
 - i. We recommend this be completed by June 2020 in preparation for attending the workshop Building a Church-Wide Coordinated Response to Domestic Abuse with Chris Moles & Joy Forrest (July 2020).
 - b. Part of care & counseling training so counselors are equipped with how to recognize signs of domestic violence.
- II. *Becoming a Church that Cares Well for the Abused* by Brad Hambrick (www.churchcares.com)
 - a. Video training materials are still being created per website
- III. Building a Church-Wide Co-ordinated Response to Domestic Abuse Pastoral Training Day with Chris Moles and Called To Peace Ministries (July 2020)
 - a. Care and Counseling Pastor and Ministry Leaders
- IV. Recommend having Called to Peace church partner, Jim Upchurch (Pastor, Rolesville Baptist Church) review policy and provide feedback.
- V. Additional Resources for reading
 - a. *The Heart of Domestic Abuse* by Chris Moles
 - b. *The Emotionally Destructive Relationship* by Leslie Vernick

When: Timeline of meetings and trainings to be decided by the pastor/leader that heads this up