

Pastoral Care or Spiritual Care through Chaplaincy

Pastoral care or spiritual care is a ministry to any person who is experiencing a period of personal, social, physical, material, mental, spiritual or moral stress.

Pastoral care reaches out to such people wherever they are suffering offering consolation and support in whatever form is appropriate to the person at the time. The type of support needed may vary from day to day. The carer must accept them irrespective of their condition, their religious background, their virtues and their vices. The carer shows no prejudice, judgemental attitude, or superior air toward their social position, their faith belief use of language or their ethnicity.

A pastoral person must respect the theological position or otherwise and not set out with an agenda of proselytization of the client. In fact, where faith beliefs differ there must be an acceptance of the common elements that exist in all religions and provide reassurance and support through their own faith.