

New Support Services for Pastors , Professional Church Staff, Families....

Sadly statistics tell us how the stresses and strains of daily ministry even in so called "normal" times can overwhelm a Pastor or Church Staff resulting in anxiety, confusion, family or professional instability, and even depression.

The AMR is sponsoring a new initiative for personal support, counseling and life coaching developed by one of our own Pastors, Dan Schaefer, Interim at St. John, Birdsboro, PA, and an accredited Counselor with years of experience in each field.

*These counseling and support services, which we hope to expand with additional screened Counselors, are offered with complete confidentiality – **NO client or conditions reporting will be done to the Office of Bishop or Deans.** Your identity and needs are protected.*

*Further, Dan's work is accepted by many insurance programs, and he and I are working particularly with the Hahn Group to financially support care under the NALC health program. In the event insurance is not compliant or insufficient and the Pastor or Staff or family member are prevented by financial cost from seeking help, the AMR will seek to assist on a cost shared basis so that no one is excluded because of finances. Again, **confidentiality will be strictly honored** as Dan would "bill" the AMR for shared cost of hours or sessions with **no personal identification.***

My prayer is that any of you who so devotedly serve God's people and feel severe stress will seek out this healing support. The Prophet Malachi speaks of the coming Day of the Lord as "sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings". We are told those wings typically represent shelter and safety. In every distress that threatens, His will is that we be sheltered, made safe, and healed in His embrace.

Below is Dan Schaefer's own personal introduction and his approach as well as contact info.

*David McGettigan+
Dean Atlantic Mission Region*

From Pastor Dan Schaefer....

As a Pastor, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified Life Coach, I would like to offer my services as they may be needed for Clergy, Staff, and their Families in the NALC.

Clergy and Staff are under tremendous pressure and at risk due to the demands of their unique calling. The current Covid-19 crisis is another example of the challenges Clergy and Staff face in fulfilling their ministry.

Counseling, psychotherapy, and Life Coaching are resources that can help in managing stress and maintaining mental health in an ever-changing world and professional demands and expectations.

I am in network with most insurance companies and have had an initial conversation with the Hahn Group as to what services I might be able to offer and what might be covered under their policies. My Counseling License is for Pennsylvania. Life Coaching is not restricted and I can offer that virtually anywhere. My counseling office is in Allentown and my Church office is in Birdsboro. Tele-counseling is available through my website which is HIPAA compliant and secure. During the current crisis all of my counseling is done by video or phone sessions and is working very well. I carry my own Professional Liability Insurance.

There very well may be others with similar credentials in the NALC who would make themselves available also and possibly establish a network of care.

Jesus modeled healthy ministry and the Bible contains some important principles of self-care which are as important today as they were then.

For more information or an appointment, contact me at 484-942-9364 or rev.dan@verizon.net.

"Dear Friend, I pray may you enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." 3 John: 2