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May 27, 2014

Dr. Stephen Taylor

RE: Pastoral Care Training Program

Dear Dr. Taylor:

We have just completed the final evaluations with the group of pastors in our current training program. The pastors spoke very highly of your time with them and I wanted to share with you an excerpt from the written evaluation of one of the pastors:

"The didactic learning session that has been most useful and contained the most information that I had not already been exposed to was the session with Dr. Stephen Taylor on substance abuse and addiction. It was particularly timely for me in dealing with the pastoral situation I described in my group verbatim experience where a woman in our church died of an accidental overdose. I received permission from her family to share with the church some of her struggles with an addiction to pain medication. I believe it was a pastoral help to integrate some of what I learned from Dr. Taylor into my eulogy. I told the congregation what I had learned from Dr. Taylor that addiction is not something that anyone can overcome through force of will. It is a disease that must be managed and contained, but that there is no known cure, nor is it about a weak will. I believe didactic learning, combined with my developing theology of pastoral care enabled me to frame this person's death as a heartbreaking consequence of pain and not as the result of a weak person lost to the clutches of sin."

Thanks again for your valuable input into our program.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rachel Julian, M.D.

Pastoral Psychiatrist

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