



**CONFIDENT
TO COUNSEL**

A Fellowship of Lay Counselors

Pastoral/Leadership Recommendation Form

■ **Who Affirms a Person for Membership to c2c?**

The RECOMMENDATION to C2C should come from the LEADERSHIP (Pastor/Elder, Deacon, Ministry Overseer) of the church the applicant attends, and will be submitted by way of email to C2C as part of the application process for membership.

The signed form should be submitted by email to contact@Confident2Counsel.org

■ **A Guide for Pastoral/Elder Approval**

Note — This process of approving a lay Biblical Counselor is NOT about perfection in the person's life that you are considering, but about the direction of their life. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:5 “*Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.*” (NASB95)

There are 5 categories to consider with an evaluation question for each category.

- 1. Are they willing to counsel others?** 1 Timothy 3:1 “if anyone desires ...”, the Psalmist says in Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Paul told the Philippians in Philippians 2:13, “For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” — **The Evaluation Question** — **Do they desire to counsel others?** ... If someone does not desire the work, they will never complete the work. There is also a caution here to watch out for those who are too eager to want to counsel.

2. **Are they servants?** Mark 11:41-45 teaches a “servant must not lord it over others” — **The Evaluation Question** — **Do they serve or control (abuse) others?** ... Paul says an overseer must not be pugnacious, a fighter; but gentle and peaceable. 1 Tim. 3:3. In Titus 1:7, Paul says the overseer must not be “self-willed or quick tempered.” In 1 Peter 5:3 Peter says an elder must not lord it over the flock. In 3 John, John condemns Diotrephes who “loves to be first” and who will not take instruction from John. A counseling relationship has great potential for abuse. A counselor is giving instructions to another person in a position of trust; often a person who is quite vulnerable. The potential for abuse is high. If you permit someone who has a tendency to lord it over others to become a counselor, you endanger your congregation.
3. **Do they have a good reputation?** (1 Timothy 3:2, “An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach”, Philippians 2:15, “so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, — **The Evaluation Question** — **do others, in and outside the Church, hold anything against them?** ... Am I saying that no one can ever outlive their past? No. But it will take wisdom here. But, if the reputation is a current reputation, then such a person should not become a counselor.
4. **How is their speech?** 1 Peter 2:1 says, “Therefore, putting away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.” One must not only be careful in how we speak to some-one, but we must also be careful how we speak about some-one. Someone will come to the counselor and will divulge very private information about their own heart, about their home, their family. You will learn details about others finances about their sexual relations and their children. This is very dangerous information. — **The Evaluation Question** — **do they know how to keep appropriate confidentiality?** You must never trust a gossip to be a counselor. There is perhaps nothing as dangerous and disqualifying for a counselor as having a gossiping, slanderous tongue.

“There are some brethren with whom it is ill for us to associate, lest they do us hurt, and it is ill for them that we associate with them, lest we seem to assist them in their evil deeds. Especially is this so in the case of brethren of the class that he is about to describe—mischievous makers, troublers, people that can always tell you the gossip of a congregation, that can tear a neighbor’s character to pieces, that are able to perceive spots on the sun; people who delight in parading the faults of God’s own children, and are never so happy as when they are making others unhappy by what they have to retail. These are the kind of people to whom you should give a wide berth.” H. Spurgeon, "A Challenge and War-

Charge," in The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons, vol. 51 (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1905), 167. If you should stay away from gossips generally, it applies triple for counselors.

5. **Can they clearly and accurately communicate Biblical truth?** 2 Timothy 2:24, "The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged", Titus 1:9, "Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict." Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Counseling is the private ministry of the Word; therefore the person should be able to clearly explain what the Bible says. **The Evaluation Question** — **Have I seen this person clearly and accurately teach others the Scriptures?** What are some examples of where they have correctly used scripture to counsel others?

Please provide examples below

I have prayerfully considered _____, and based on the above evaluation, I

(Print Applicants Name)

_____, of _____ recommend them to the membership of C2C

(Print Your Name and Title)

(Name of Church)

Date _____

Signed _____

Email this completed form to contact@Confident2Counsel.org