

Supporting Church Affirmations/Commitments

As a church endorsed by Mending the Soul Ministries to function as a bridge into the community, we endorse and commit to the following:

1. To the best of our ability we will only allow individuals to facilitate MTS groups who have firstly completed a MTS group as a participant and thus demonstrate a high level of personal integrity, emotional stability, and spiritual maturity. Furthermore, we commit to monitor and supervise the personal integrity and emotional/spiritual health of these leaders.
2. We commit to minister not just to our denomination or to the members of our church, but to our community. We are committed to serving individuals and families outside our congregation. Thus, we will allow and encourage individuals to attend Mending the Soul small support groups regardless of whether or not they attend our church. We will not pressure individuals who participate in Mending the Soul small support group(s) to attend our church.
3. Recognizing that abuse creates deep wounding and robs people of a sense of dignity and personal autonomy (creates powerlessness) we commit to respect and protect the dignity of those attending Mending the Soul small support groups in our church. Thus, we commit to respecting their spiritual beliefs and convictions particularly when they differ from our own.
4. We commit to designate at least two leaders in our church, at least one being a female, who will oversee the Mending the Soul small support group(s). We also commit to designate one of our pastors or elders to be one of these two leaders or to oversee these leaders. Leaders roles are referred to as “pastor” and “MTS church coordinator.”
5. We commit to sending our Mending the Soul small support group leaders to the annual Mending the Soul Ministry training, or providing the MTS Basic Training videos for them to view. We understand this is necessary for new facilitators to be trained and can also be used as a refresher for those previously trained.
6. We commit to providing ongoing Mending the Soul small support groups in our church for a minimum of one year.
7. The leadership of our church endorses the model of abuse, healing, and forgiveness articulated in Dr. Steven Tracy’s book, *Mending the Soul*. Thus our church leaders recognize that:
 1. Due to human depravity, abuse is prevalent in every strata of society and happens in professing Christian families as well as in secular families (2 Sam 13:1-19). Anyone is capable of being an abuser, even a spiritual leader (2 Sam 11:14-15).
 2. Due to the fact that humans are made in the image of God, all forms of abuse are deeply damaging. Thus we will not state or imply to survivors of abuse that they should simply “get over it” but we will patiently and gently minister to those broken by abuse.
 3. God calls the church to protect the vulnerable, especially women and children, and to stand against the powerful who seek to intimidate and exploit those who are weaker (Jer 22:3, 15-17).

4. God hates abuse and oppression (Ez 22:6-7, 13, 15).
5. It is an adult or child's right to remove him or herself from an abusive relationship. While God can and does redeem abuse (Gen 50:20), He does not call us to endure avoidable suffering. Scripture teaches that we should flee from abusers whenever possible (Matthew 12:14-15; John 8:59; Acts 9:23-25; 14:5-6).
6. Abusers are characteristically deceptive, cunning, and intimidating (2 Sam 11:6-25; 1 Kings 18:17). Thus we will look for evidence of genuine repentance in abusers in the form of brokenness over their sin (Matt 11:20-21), complete ownership of their abuse (2 Sam 12:13), and evidence of changed behavior (Matt 3:8).
8. We commit to stand with those who have been wounded by abuse and to offer safety and to do all we can to protect them from their abusers (Prov 24:11-12). Furthermore, we will boldly confront abusers and protect the victim(s). (Is 1:17).
9. We commit to report all child abuse as well as other forms of abuse (elder abuse, any other abuse where a child is in danger, etc.) to the civil authorities and to work with Child Protective Services and law enforcement to prosecute abusers (Rom 13:1-5).

By filling out the information and signing below we agree to the affirmations and commitments listed above for being a Mending the Soul supporting church. We understand that in order to be listed on the Mending the Soul website we must/mail email this signed and completed supporting church affirmation and commitment.

Church Name: _____

Church Address: _____ City _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Contact phone number: _____ Website: _____

Contact email: _____

Pastor (printed name)	Pastor (signature)	Date
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MTS Church Coord. (printed name)	MTS Church Coordinator (signature)	Date
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Email completed form to info@mendingthesoul.org or mail to:
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Phoenix, AZ 85060