

# *All Things New Ministry*

## *Covenant Statement*



I understand that I am participating in a Bible Study/Discipleship Ministry for people with unwanted same sex attraction facilitated by lay leaders and assisted by volunteer Accountability Partners. This ministry with its weekly group meetings does not constitute or include any form of professional counseling. If at any time I feel that I need additional help for issues that are surfacing, I will speak to my facilitators for a referral for professional counseling in my specific area of need.

**Confidentiality:** All information shared in the group will be kept confidential. There are certain circumstances in which the facilitator or an Accountability Partner would be compelled to break confidentiality: if we believe you are at risk for suicide or if we believe you intend to harm another person.

**Homework Assignments:** It is important that participants complete every homework assignment and come to class ready to discuss the lesson for that week. Each week's lesson includes the memorization of a Scripture that relates to the lesson objectives and demonstration of completed homework and Scripture memorization is required each week.

**Attendance:** A commitment to attend every class and to arrive on time is important as it helps to establish trust; and helps participants to keep up with the class and all of the information shared. Successful completion of the course and graduation at the FBCG Discipleship Ministry Graduation Ceremony requires participants to attend class each time the group meets. In the event of emergency or illness, no more than three (3) absences are permitted from February – July, and two (2) absences from September – December. Please arrive to class on time – ready to start at 7:00 p.m.

**Class Participation:** Positive feedback is encouraged in class. We will not allow criticism or put-downs. We are in this group to work on issues pertaining to us, not others. We will share our own insights, experiences, and feelings and will validate and accept the insights, experiences, and feelings of others in the group. We will listen with undivided attention to each person who is speaking, and we will be considerate of the need for all to share, and therefore will not dominate the conversation.

**Distractions/Interruptions:** We will turn off and put away all cellphones and other electronic devices when we are in class. There will be no texting, or checking social media, or any other distractions of any kind during the 2 hours we meet each week. We will not interrupt others when they are speaking – allow them to completely finish what they are saying.

**Avoid Cross Talk:** Cross talk is arguing with or verbally attacking another participant, giving advice, responding with criticism, verbally responding to every statement made, or confronting in any way. We must refrain from analyzing, preaching and/or attempting to 'fix' other group members.

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**No Fraternization:** Fraternization means developing an unhealthy relationship with another person you meet in this ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to create a safe environment for people who experience same-sex attraction to find deliverance and healing. There should be no regular communication outside of class with other participants that you have met in the ministry. Each participant is assigned an Accountability Partner who is there to support you as you work through your healing process and regular communication with your Accountability Partner is encouraged.

**No Business Dealings:** No members of this ministry may participate in business dealings with any other person who is a part of the ministry.

**Accountability Partner Role:** Each participant will be paired with an Accountability Partner who is a member of First Baptist Church of Glenarden. Their role is to serve as a Christian friend/mentor to support the person they are assigned to through prayer, encouragement, and friendship. They are to meet with their assigned participant in person or by phone at least once every two weeks. It is also your responsibility as a participant to maintain contact with your Accountability Partner, and to let the Ministry Leaders know if you are unable to stay connected, or if you wish to be reassigned to another Accountability Partner for any reason.

**Group Leader Role:** This is not a therapy group. The leader is qualified by 'life experiences and/or exposure to training on the issues surrounding same-sex attraction,' and not necessarily professional training as a therapist. The leader's role in this group is to create an environment where healing can occur, to support the participant's work towards wholeness, and share their own experience, strength and support.

I understand that any lack of adhering to any of the above stated requirements will be addressed by the Leader(s) and/or by the Group.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_