

MINDFULNESS COUNSELING POLICY

The Blue Mountain Lotus Society (BMLS) considers counseling to be an essential aspect of its ministry, and that it is important for persons seeking counseling to recognize certain legal considerations that apply in the context of counseling. These may include many considerations, including the fact that the counselee understands and agrees that counseling is provided on the condition that:

1. The counselors are engaged solely in spiritual counseling based on their understanding of the practice of Mindfulness, and they are not engaged in the practice of psychology or medical treatment.
2. State law may require a counselor to report allegations of child abuse to civil authorities.
3. Statements made in confidence to a minister in the course of counseling ordinarily are privileged, meaning that neither the counselee nor the minister can be compelled to disclose in a court of law any statements made in the course of the counseling. However, the presence of a third-party during a counseling session may jeopardize the privilege, since the counseling may no longer be considered confidential. To illustrate, statements made in the course of Mindfulness (pastoral counseling) may not be privileged if a counselee brings a friend along to the counseling session.
4. Any statements made in confidence in the course of counseling will be kept in strict confidence by the counselor. As noted above, the duty to maintain confidences may not apply in the context of child abuse. Further, the counselor may reserve the right to disclose confidential information in specified situations (such as threats of suicide or intent to harm another person).
5. All counseling is to be provided by a duly certified and ordained minister of BMLS.

Name _____ Date _____