



Dear Pastor,

Greetings in the Lord! We at Desert Stream Ministries are glad that you want to see a Desert Stream program (Living Waters or CrossCurrent) implemented in your church.

One (or more) of your church members is applying to participate in a *Living Waters* Leadership Training. Our training is for those individuals who want to coordinate and/or help facilitate a Desert Stream program (Living Waters or CrossCurrent).

We are asking you to evaluate several things. The first involves the readiness of the church member that is applying for the training. Do you see the potential for this member to be a whole-enough healer? Keep in mind that an applicant may still be in the healing process. What we are looking for are those who have a cooperative, servant attitude toward the church and who are already demonstrating healing gifts and integrity there.

Keep in mind the difference between a small group leader who is a part of the team and a coordinator. The coordinator leads the team and thus needs to possess leadership gifts as well as the aforementioned qualities.

Please evaluate the readiness of your church member who is applying for the Living Waters Training. If you are unsure as to whether (s)he is seeking to be a coordinator or small group leader, please find out and evaluate accordingly. Indicate on your referral if this applicant qualifies. Otherwise, please state your denial of recommendation based on premature timing or other disqualification.

If you and your church are planning to sponsor a Living Waters or CrossCurrent group, we ask you to seriously consider some concerns and questions, so as to help discern your readiness to integrate this program into your church.

- 1) It's important for the coordinator of your church to have access to ongoing pastoral oversight. Group leaders find that they can be more vulnerable, in whatever ways they experience vulnerability, when they step out in such ministry. Consider...
 - ♦ Can you or another pastor on your staff provide ongoing oversight to a coordinator? That could involve group-related issues, and/or the coordinator's personal concerns.
 - ♦ Do you feel that you could direct the coordinator to outside resources if required, e.g. psychological supervision, counseling?
- 2) Healing of sexuality and relationships usually occurs over time. Instantaneous healing occurs sometimes, but usually our souls need many healings in order for us to enter into the relational wholeness God desires for us.
 - ♦ Do you believe that your church is the sort of healing community that does (or could) value and understand healing *as a process*?

- ♦ Do you believe that your church would be the sort of community which could bless such a process for its members as something with which we must be patient?

3) Although these groups are geared to all sorts of sexual and relational brokenness, the healing of homosexuality is one important issue included. Homosexuality, and the idea that a person can be healed of it, is a cutting-edge issue in our culture that can sometimes provoke debate. Consider whether or not your church would be able to take the risk of being drawn into the debate over homosexuality.

- ♦ For the sake of those struggling with homosexuality, are you and your church members willing to be seen as 'intolerant' by those who embrace homosexuality as normal and unchangeable?
- ♦ Would you be able to deal with people accusing you of being hateful for no other reason but running such a program?

4) Lastly, consider the possibility of encouraging a group of intercessors to pray for the group and the church-at-large. A well-coordinated ministry of intercession can make all the difference in the world, especially at the start of the program in any one church.

In all things the focus of these groups is on Jesus, crucified and risen again. At the cross the worst thing that could happen, the murder of God, became the best thing for us, our redemption and the source of our healing. So it is with us when we come to meet Jesus at the cross, our wounds, by His loving grace, become occasions for real resurrection.

May our Eternal Father pour upon you His Spirit which raised Jesus to life, and may He guide you in all your decisions.

In Him,



Andrew Comiskey
Director and Founder of Desert Stream Ministries

Note: Please write a brief letter of recommendation, and answer and return the pastoral questionnaire on the following page.

Desert Stream Ministries Pastoral Questionnaire

Name of potential leadership training participant: _____

- 1) Is your church member applying as a *team member* or *coordinator*?
- 2) What group is this person wanting to lead? Living Waters CrossCurrent
- 3) Describe his or her qualifications for the role:

4) If you are planning to sponsor a group in your church, please respond to the following: (Use additional paper if necessary)

- A) We are planning to provide pastoral care covering for the coordinator: YES NO

Explain _____

- B) As a church, we esteem the healing of persons, and believe that the healing of sexual and relational brokenness is a process that requires a lot of time and support. YES NO

Explain _____

- C) As a church, we view homosexuality as a sin that can be forgiven, and a brokenness that can be healed. Given that such a perspective is increasingly unpopular, we will persevere in this stance if necessary. YES NO

Explain _____

- D) As a church, we will cover the program in prayer and will seek to integrate it within the breadth of the whole church. YES NO

Explain _____

Desert Stream Ministries (DSM) will provide the program materials for the coordination of a Living Waters or CrossCurrent program, but such programs, in order to be successful, must be administered as one of the ministries of your church. Due to the broad geographical base of these programs, DSM cannot be responsible for the management, supervision, and support of said ministries. (We will of course encourage and help you as much as we can, but we cannot assume responsibility for your efforts.) Therefore, by agreeing to provide pastoral care for the coordination and leadership of said ministries, and the full support of your church for said ministries, the undersigned pastor does hereby agree, on behalf of its church, to indemnify and hold harmless DSM from any liability for any injuries suffered by any person as a result of their participation in any of the DSM programs which are acknowledged by the undersigned to be one of the fully supported, sponsored and supervised ministries of the undersigned's church. By signing below, you as pastor and representative on behalf of your church, agree to the foregoing indemnity and hold harmless agreement.

Pastor's Name: _____

Pastor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Church Name: _____

Church Address: _____

Church City: _____ **State/Zip:** _____

Pastor's Email Address: _____

Pastor's Phone Number: _____