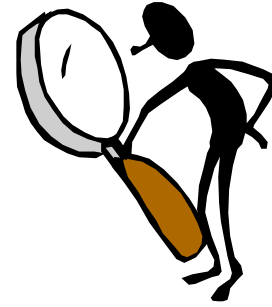


# Code of Ethics: Ministry to people on a VAD pathway

Workshop facilitator Sue Crittall

# Workshop overview...



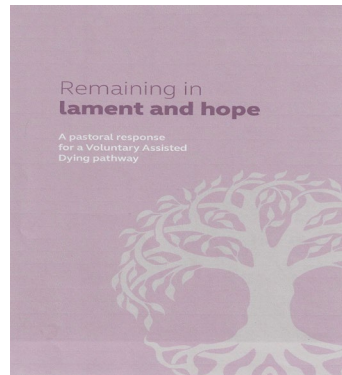
- ▶ Looking at the Code of Ethics and ministry to people on a VAD pathway
- ▶ Process: case study, whole group discussion, paired activity, small group activity, personal reflection
- ▶ Invited to participate, appropriate sharing
- ▶ Invited to move between pairs/small groups for the different activities
- ▶ Being safe and feeling safe

# Practice of ministry...

‘The Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice in the UCA invites ministers to pay attention to the particular place ministers have in the community, the exercise of influence and power, to recognise their own vulnerability and take responsibility for their own self-care and supervision’.

Remaining in lament and hope: a pastoral response  
for a Voluntary Assisted Dying pathway

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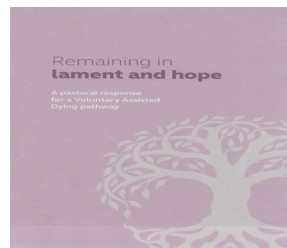


# Practice of ministry...

‘All spiritual and pastoral conversations with a person who is considering, or has decided to undertake VAD, are to be conducted in accordance with the professional standards of the Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice.

In the pastoral relationship a ministry agent seeks to express an ethic of care, which includes nurturing the other person’s power over their own life as they relate to others and to God’.

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# Looking at the COE...

- ▶ They [Ministers] minister within a pastoral relationship in which they seek to enable other people to focus on God as the source of healing, restoration and wholeness (COE 1.1)
- ▶ People enter ministry as a response to a call from God and the Church. It is this call that requires that all Ministers carry out their ministry in a professional and accountable manner. (COE 1.7)
- ▶ Ministers shall exercise their ministry in a manner that expresses the professional nature of the relationship, and ensures non-abusive use of power. (COE 2.4ev)



# Power and the pastoral relationship...

## Paired activity

- ▶ What would you say to explain 'power'?
- ▶ What power do you think you have as a Minister?
- ▶ Reflect on cultural background and the power of a Minister
- ▶ What is the pastoral relationship?
- ▶ Thinking about your placement - who are you in pastoral relationship with?



# Considering power and the pastoral relationship...

- ▶ Why do you think the COE highlights that 'Ministers have the responsibility to discern when they are exercising power inappropriately in relation to others in the pastoral relationship?' (COE 1.5)
- ▶ Reflect on companioning a person on a VAD pathway and the exercise of power as a minister

*Ministers shall recognise the power that is inherent in their role and shall not use their power in a manner which is abusive or unprofessional. In particular they shall not use their power to (iii) exploit or abuse other people physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually or financially (COE 3.6a).*

# Thinking about pastoral conversations...

Small group/paired activity

- ▶ How does a Minister appropriately bring their theological, biblical, spiritual pastoral experience into a pastoral conversation?
- ▶ In what ways should a Minister seek to influence an outcome of a pastoral conversation?
- ▶ How do you hold your convictions in a pastoral conversation?

15mins





# Case studies...

## Small group

- ▶ 2 case studies presented
- ▶ Congregation/chaplaincy in a facility
- ▶ Decide which case study to explore
- ▶ Gather with colleagues and discuss

20 mins



# Reflecting on the case studies...

## Whole group activity

- ▶ Reflect on the case study activity
- ▶ What issues emerged from your discussion

## *Case study discussion questions*

- *What power is the Minister given in this situation*
- *What responses could the Minister make in this situation*
- *What could go wrong*
- *What guidance does the COE offer to this situation*
- *How would you proceed*



# Break....

- ▶ 25 mins



# Reflect on being careful about influencing others...



- ▶ What challenges do you face in ensuring you do not influence the decision making of another?
- ▶ Reflect on offering appropriate compassion and support to people and words spoken, body posture, gestures, eye contact, facial expressions, tone of voice
- ▶ How have your previous ministry experiences prepared you for exercising ministry with people on a VAD pathway?

15mins

# Consider the following pastoral relationship scenario questions...

What would an inappropriate/appropriate use of power response be?

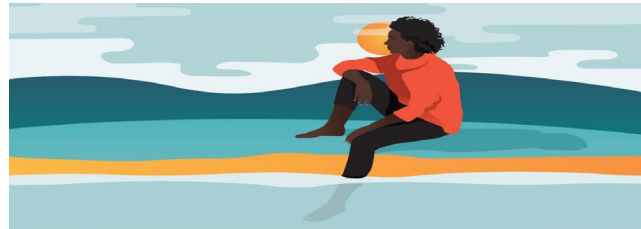
- “If I choose VAD will I go to hell?”
- “If you were me what would you decide re VAD?”
- “I have chosen VAD. Do you think that is a good decision?”
- “Can you explain VAD to me?”
- “What does the Bible say about VAD?”
- “Will you do my funeral if I choose VAD?”
- “What do you think I should say to my family about VAD?”
- “Do you know anyone who has chosen VAD?”



10 mins

# Personal reflection...

- ▶ What have you realised about the Code of Ethics and ministry to people on a VAD pathway?
- ▶ What will be a challenge for you? Where do you need to be careful?
- ▶ What do you need to consider further?



5 mins

Close of workshop...

**“Thank You”**

