



Shepherd Care®

To Care for People Where They Live and Work

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COMMUNITY Care TOPIC

Facing End of Life Decisions

Understanding the Situation

- Gets the Facts- Understand the Health and Dynamics of the Situation.
- Planning and Preparation- Make decisions early while you still can. Record the will and get family input on the future plans. This will make things easier than scrambling after-the-fact.
- Remember that death is a part of life.

Relationship Strengths and Weaknesses

- That is my Mother or My Father- Have love and compassion and try not to resent the inconvenience of the situation.
- Objective Decision Making- subjective means what is right for "me." Objective means getting all of the facts and looking at how the situation affects everyone involved.
- Realistic Expectations- this will help you deal with the good days and bad days.

- Family Meetings- meet together often and try to make the decision as the consensus of the entire family.
- Physician Guidance- ask the doctors and nurses for their input.
- Clergy Counsel- seek spiritual counsel before, during, and after.
In closing, every person has the right to dignity.

Transitioning through the final stage of life is both delicate and difficult. The importance of the task cannot be over-stated. Remember that your life must go on.

Introducing your Community Chaplain
Eric Kieselbach
(pronounced "key-sill-baa")
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"Remember this, - that there is a proper dignity and proportion to be observed in the performance of every act of life"

Marcus Aurelius

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

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