

Essential Ingredients in the Supportive Care Model

- I. **Addresses a movement in society** seen already back in the 1980's:
 - A. Early disabilities services were provided by the church as a community.
 - B. Society caught the vision and so public agencies took up the work.
 - C. Public agencies in turn contracted with private entrepreneurs.
 - D. Christian values are often lost in the process to "expedience and the profit motive."
- II. **Based on a number of assumptions.**
 - A. **Family assumptions.** Families care about...
 1. Quality of life
 2. Continuity of care
 3. Financial security
 - B. **Theological assumptions:** agape love, service without pre-expectations, hospitality, mutuality in the body of Christ.
 - C. **Anthropological/soteriological assumptions:** (10 assumptions, p. 9). Summary: We are whole persons as we participate in a supportive caring community.
- III. **Proposes a plan of action and lodges that plan in the context of a congregation.**
 - A. Essential feature -- **Supportive Care Groups** ("Support Circles" or "Care Groups") p. 11
 - B. Each group should be based in and accountable to a local congregation.
 - C. Emphasis on maintaining the "natural network" of relationships for the person.
- IV. **Provides for roles** within the group. In addition to the dependent/disabled person and parents/family members are persons who **take on roles** hitherto assumed mainly by parents. (Ch. 5, esp. pp 12-14) These roles include:
 - A. Guardian
 - B. Friend
 - C. Monitor of values and principles
 - D. Program advocate
 - E. Steward (trustee)
 - F. Spiritual mentor
 - G. Medical advocate
 - H. Parent partner
 - I. Worrier
- V. **Proposes an implementation process** (Ch. 6, pp. 15ff)
 - A. Initiation by congregational leadership and preparation of congregation
 - B. Formation of group and training
 - C. Covenants: Support group covenant and Congregational covenant
 - D. Legal/financial arrangements
- VI. **Envisions a larger resource network:** ("Supporting the congregation" pp. 18-19)
 - A. Facilitator
 - B. Training
 - C. Regional networking groups - "retreats, celebrations, educational seminars, etc."
 - D. Monitoring and resourcing
 - E. Church foundations