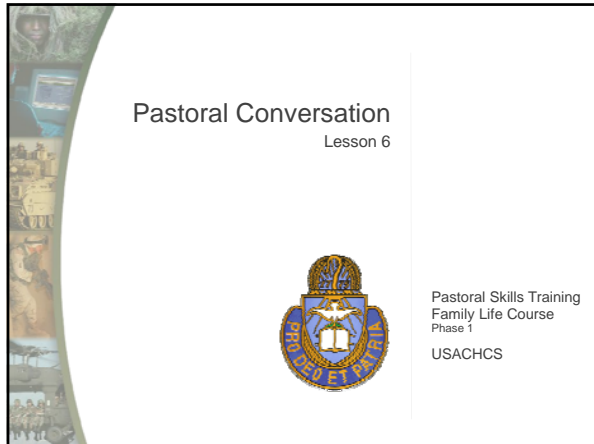


Pastoral Skills Training Family Life Course


Lesson 6: Pastoral Conversation

Student Guide

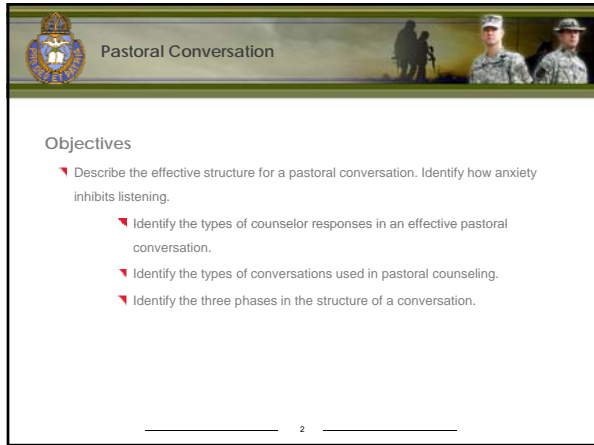
Lesson Objectives	
Describe the effective structure for a pastoral conversation. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Identify the types of counselor responses in an effective pastoral conversation.○ Identify the types of conversations used in pastoral counseling.○ Identify the three phases in the structure of a conversation.	
Session 1: Presentation Webinar	
Student Readings	
<i>How to Construct a Conversation</i> (Donald Capps)	06-How-to-Construct-a-Conversation.pdf
Case Study	06-case-study.pdf
Session 2: Discussion Webinar	
A discussion of the assigned case study	



Pastoral Conversation
Lesson 6



Pastoral Skills Training
Family Life Course
Phase 1
USACHCS

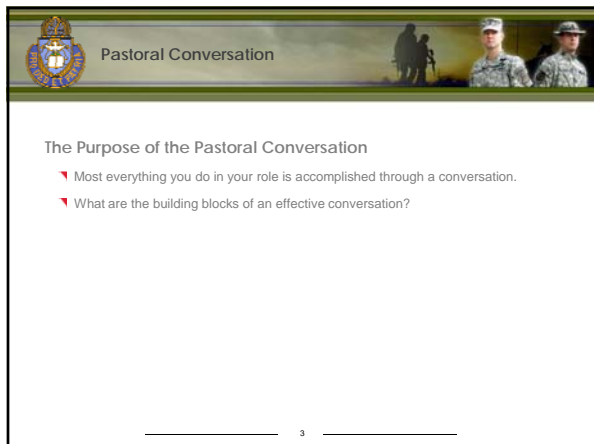


Pastoral Conversation

Objectives

- ▾ Describe the effective structure for a pastoral conversation. Identify how anxiety inhibits listening.
 - ▾ Identify the types of counselor responses in an effective pastoral conversation.
 - ▾ Identify the types of conversations used in pastoral counseling.
 - ▾ Identify the three phases in the structure of a conversation.

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Pastoral Conversation

The Purpose of the Pastoral Conversation

- ▾ Most everything you do in your role is accomplished through a conversation.
- ▾ What are the building blocks of an effective conversation?

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 Pastoral Conversation 

Counselor Responses

▼ The counselor's responses have the biggest effect on the direction the conversation takes, and on how the conversation reflects good listening. Effective counselor responses can be categorized into six types:

- ▼ Supportive
- ▼ Understanding
- ▼ Interpretive
- ▼ Probing
- ▼ Evaluative
- ▼ Advising



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 Pastoral Conversation 

Counselor Responses: Tone-Setting Phase

- ▼ **Supportive:** Responses indicating the intent to reassure, undergird, or inspire, and perhaps reduce the counselee's intensity of feeling. Used during the tone-setting phase of the conversation.
- ▼ **Understanding:** Responses indicating the intention to communicate understanding and, in effect, to inquire whether this understanding is accurate. Reflects empathy for the client's feelings and attitudes. Understanding responses are also used in the initial rapport-building phase of the conversation.
- ▼ **Interpretive:** Responses indicating the intent to teach, to impart meaning, or explain dynamics (the why) of a person's thoughts, feelings, or behavior. Used during the tone-setting phase of the conversation.



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 Pastoral Conversation 

Counselor Responses: Exploratory Phase

- ▼ **Probing:** Responses indicating the intent to query, to seek further information or provoke further discussion along a certain line.
- ▼ **Evaluative:** Responses expressing a judgment concerning the relative appropriateness, correctness, or effectiveness of the client's thoughts, feelings, or behavior.
- ▼ **Advising:** Responses indicating the intent to recommend certain approaches, actions, attitudes, or beliefs (or to recommend against them). Offers some type of constructive suggestion for coping with a problem.


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 Pastoral Conversation 

Correlations Between Response Types

Almost Always Appropriate	Used More Selectively	Inappropriate Responses
Supportive Responses	Advising Responses	Controlling Responses
Understanding Responses	Probing Responses	Impatient Responses
Interpretive Responses	Evaluative Responses	Moralistic Responses



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 Pastoral Conversation 

Inappropriate Response Types

- ▼ **Controlling:** A counselor might take a few steps beyond the advising response to provide a response that attempts to force a client down a specific path.
- ▼ **Impatient:** An impatient response is based on understanding, but it attempts to cut out critical steps in getting the client from point A to point B.
- ▼ **Moralistic:** A moralistic response attempts to lay down a solid judgment even though there may not be sufficient evidence to support it.

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 Pastoral Conversation 

Types of Conversations

1. **Turning-point:** A person is at a junction in life, trying to make a decision, and feels that a talk with the counselor may help to bring clarity and identify an appropriate course of action.
2. **Shared self-disclosure:** The counselor and the client move to a new level of mutual understanding because either one or both reveals something about oneself that was not previously known.
3. **Growing edge exchange:** The interests of one person and the competence of the other are in such resonance that both learn from the conversation.
4. **Rehearsal:** Conversation that enables the participants to share, celebrate, or remember certain events.

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The Structure of the Conversation

- ▼ **The tone-setting phase:** In this phase, information is gathered that sets the stage for the conversation. Here the counselor can determine what type of conversation it is and what direction it needs to take.
- ▼ **The exploratory phase:** In this phase, the counselor and the client travel together to an unknown region (whether it represents feelings, relationships, history, etc.) to learn more about it.
- ▼ **The resolution phase:** The resolution phase begins when both the counselor and the client begin to have a sense that their exploration has been as productive as it is likely to be on that occasion. A decision is then made as to what the next step or future action is.



Discussion Questions

- ▼ What kinds of questions might you ask ,or what statements might you make, during the tone-setting phase?
- ▼ What about the exploratory phase?
- ▼ How will it be beneficial for you to know and recognize the types of counselor responses in a conversation?



QUESTIONS?
