

# **Intensive Assessment and Consultation for Ministry Leaders Eden Counseling and Consulting**

## **Introduction and Overview**

Paul H. Van Valin, PhD  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
President, Eden Counseling and Consultation

The pressures of vocational ministry are great and may negatively impact the minister, his/her marriage, and other relationships. A survey done of ministers by Fuller Institute of Church Growth showed the following:

- 90% work well over 50 hours per week
- 51% said that they felt they were unable to meet the demands of the job
- 82% believed that the ministry had negatively impacted their family life
- 92% said that they were inadequately trained to cope with ministry demands
- 53% averaged 5-6 hours of sleep per night
- 85% spent less than two evenings a week at home with their families
- 43% do not take a regular day off
- 73% have no close or intimate friendships outside their marriage

## **The Mission**

For pastors and lay leaders who are in need of personal, professional or relationship assistance, the Leader Assessment and Consultation teams provide personal, marital, relationship, ministry and organizational assessment with a plan for restoration and growth involving the development and provision of the necessary interventions and supports to insure success.

## **The Team**

Paul H. Van Valin, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
President, Eden Counseling and Consultation  
Team Leader, Psychological Assessments, Individual and Marital Assessment and Consultation, Organizational Assessment and Consultation, Executive Coaching

Becky S. Van Valin, MSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Individual and Marital Assessment and Consultation

Rev. David Martin, MEd  
Chaplain, Sentara Leigh Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia  
Spiritual and Ministry Assessment and Consultation  
Individual and Marital Assessment and Consultation

Rev. Robert (Bob) Groves  
Pastor, Genesis Church  
Founder *Rehab* – Marriage Ministry  
Individual Consultation and Mentor for Individual Assessment and Consultation  
Mentor for Marital Assessment and Consultations

Shawn Groves  
Genesis Church  
Founder *Rehab* – Marriage Ministry  
Individual Consultation and Mentor  
Mentor for Marital Assessment and Consultations

Sandra Borden, MSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker – Eden Counseling and Consultation  
Addiction Specialist  
Individual Assessment and Consultation

Lacy Biddle, MSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker – Eden Counseling and Consultation  
Addiction Specialist  
Individual Assessment and Consultation

Kristine Rand, MSW  
Certified Nutritionist and Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Nutrition and Health consultation

Alessio Salsano, MD  
Internal Medicine

### **The Method**

Leader Assessment and Consultation combines research validated tools and methods from clinical and counseling psychology, executive coaching, team building, spiritual assessment and consultation, spiritual direction, Ministry assessment and consultation, and counseling and psychotherapy. Referrals come to us from denominational and ministry network entities, individual churches, colleagues and family members. Rarely do individuals in need self refer. The issues involved in referral include burnout, compassion fatigue, moral failure, at risk for moral failure, criminal activity, loss of vision and drive, disappointment, and the perception that God's will and call for the individual or church exceeds what is currently being accomplished.

The Consultation begins with the initial phone or email contact. Sufficient information is acquired to conceptualize the assessment. A 3 day Intensive Assessment/Consultation is scheduled and staffed with the team that is deemed most appropriate for the situation. We have served individuals, couples, and entire ministry teams and their spouses with

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*Intensive Assessment and Consultation* services and follow up consultation. Participants complete a personal/relationship and ministry history and several personal and relationship tests prior to arrival.

The *Intensive Assessment and Consultation* is designed to assess what is happening in the leader's life, develop a plan for restoration and take the first steps down a path of healing and wholeness. The initial assessment/consultation is a 20-hour process conducted in 3 days in our offices in Virginia Beach, Virginia. on site at Eden Counseling Center. It consists of:

- 1) Extensive evaluation including several validated tests
  - a. Personality assessment
  - b. Psycho-social assessment
  - c. Spiritual life assessment
  - d. Organizational assessment
  - e. If spouse is a part of this a "marriage assessment"
- 2) An individualized plan that may include a number of components
  - a. Individual counseling/consultation/coaching
  - b. Spiritual direction
  - c. Marital counseling/consultation/coaching
  - d. Team consultation
  - e. Executive coaching
- 3) Follow-up plans and assessment with the availability of additional Intensive Consultations as needed. Appropriate accountability is established within the family, church, denomination or social network.

### Case Study 1

A young EPC pastor with great promise plants a church. During the fourth year of ministry, his son is sexually molested concurrent with growing dissatisfaction and criticism from his lay leaders. The pastor and his family are facing multiple crises. He crosses professional boundaries with a woman in his church and must leave the ministry and return to the home of his youth to receive family and social support for recovery and restoration. He remained in secular employment for a over a year while Eden Counseling Ministries provided assessment, counseling and coaching, and ongoing accountability and leadership development. Concurrently he was involved in the Pastors in Residence program and became active in a local church. His character has been appropriately shaped and groomed for Godly humility by the losses and growth experiences in his life. His marriage and children are flourishing. The young pastor reconciled with leaders with whom he had become estranged through a number of poor decisions. He presently holds a ministry position in an academic institution and maintains an accountability/support network with local, mature leaders. Our team has been involved with this family for 2 years with ongoing consultation.

### Case Study 2

A dynamic pastoral couple with a strong record of creative ministry success has a number of family problems and exhausting schedules resulting, in part, from their success. Their church had grown rapidly. They launched several transformational community ministries and established a successful church plant/leadership development network. At the time of the initial consultation, their marriage was strained, their staff members were stressed, and they had several crises in their family. Personal retreat, ministry consultation, personal marriage and consultation over several years resulted marital harmony and empowerment to increase their mentoring/training role and influence a network of 35 churches constructively. They refer to our team frequently. Our team has been involved with this family and their ministries for 13 years with episodic consultation concurrent with interactions involving their referrals to our team.

### **Fee Schedule**

3 day Intensive Assessment and Consultation

\$1600 per individual or \$2900 per couple

This includes all that is necessary for the Consultation, lodging and transportation in Virginia Beach. The participants are responsible for food during their stay in Virginia Beach.

Counseling or Consultation

Based on \$160 per hour or \$120 per 45 minute session on a per session basis

Monthly agreement averages \$400 per month for:

1. Weekly 45 minute telephonic or internet consultation
2. Unlimited emails

### **Contact**

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