

# CONTACT NARRATIVE FORM

“Verbatim” Form

Lancaster Theological Seminary

Student Pastor’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Patient’s Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Verbatim No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Visit \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

## I. PURPOSE

What would you like to learn from this narrative form? Which learning goal does this “verbatim” address? Why did you choose this conversation?

## II. BACKGROUND

Summarize here the factual information you had about the person before the visit. What was the source of that information? Describe the person, situation and occasion for the visit.

## III. CONTEXT

Who referred the individual? What was the nature and content of the referral? What were you thinking and feeling as you entered the room? What were your plans? As you began the interview what were your assumptions or hunches?

## IV. PASTORAL CONVERSATION

The pastoral role usually prevents taking notes during the interview, but immediately afterward one may jot down a stream of key words in shorthand sequence. Then, at the first opportunity type the visit as verbatim as possible. Indicate both verbal and non-verbal communication that occurred between you: pauses, silence, facial expressions, mannerisms, movement, interruptions, etc. Note also any of your feelings of which you are aware. Reserve judgments and interpretations for the analysis.

Your conversation should appear as follows:

S1 Good Morning P.

P1 Oh! (sounded sad) Hi!

S2 (Hesitantly) How are you?

P2 (Pauses - tears well up) I have bad news.

W1 (Takes his hand) The doctor just told us the cancer has spread.

A “verbatim” may include the entire conversation or just a significant portion of it. Please indicate, in summary form, the content of the conversation not recorded.

## V. ANALYSIS

The purpose and most important part of the analysis is to help you understand the dynamics present in the person, in yourself, and in the relationship in order to minister more effectively. Use the following suggestions to guide your thinking.

1. Person/Patient -Themes and Issues
  - a. Key messages
  - b. Dynamics
  - c. Identity issues, sense of self
  - d. Social, ethical issues, conceptions of truth, moral reasoning
2. Student Pastor - Themes and Issues
  - a. Key messages
  - b. Dynamics
  - c. Identity issues, sense of self
  - d. Social, ethical issues, conceptions of truth, moral reasoning
  - e. Which of your assumptions regarding this person were challenged?
3. Pastoral Reflection
  - a. What are the spiritual needs of this individual?
  - b. How did you respond to them
  - c. What was your strongest response?
  - d. What was your weakest response?
  - e. What would you do differently?
  - f. Note points of identification and your feelings concerning these.
  - g. What are your plans for future care/interventions?
4. Theological Reflections
  - a. What were the theological issues in this visit? (Consider what seems to be of deepest significance to the person, to you; the explicit and implicit beliefs, meanings, or understandings expressed.)
  - b. How did your theology inform your pastoral ministry to this patient?
  - c. What scripture passage or theological writing comes to mind?
  - d. What is the central doctrine or theological concept of this encounter?