



When You Receive a Call

1. You should maintain proper communication in three directions (this should be done in a timely manner):

a. To the calling congregation

You should acknowledge receipt of the call and the accompanying documentation and give the assurance that it will be prayerfully considered. You should share with the calling congregation your intended procedure for considering the call, *i.e.*, if and when you intend to visit, the time by which you hope to reach a decision, etc.

b. To the congregation presently served

Since a call is a public act, you should immediately inform your present congregation that you have received a call. You should do this in a way that encourages prayer and helpful dialogue as you seek the Lord's will in the matter of the call you have received. The call should not become a "bargaining chip" to enhance your leverage and position in the congregation.

c. To the district

You should send copies of all correspondence dealing with the call to your district president. If the call is from another district, that district president should also receive copies of all correspondence, as well as the circuit visitors of both circuits.

2. Prayerfully and carefully consider the call

While the decision to decline or accept a call rests with you, the pastor-elect, it would be well if, as part of your deliberations, you sought the counsel and advice of your brothers in the ministry, district officials, and members of the congregation involved. The circuit visitor should request an appointment and invite such a discussion. What is best for your present congregation(s) and the congregation(s) that is/are calling you, where our Lord wants you to serve, where your skills might be best used for the Kingdom, as well as your family's and your well-being are all important components of a decision to accept or decline a call.