



What to Do When You Accept a Call

When You Accept a Call:

1. Communicate immediately in three directions:

- a. To the calling congregation.
- b. To the congregation presently served.
- c. To the district.

2. Set date of departure from the current congregation.

3. Meet with circuit visitor to discuss vacancy.

4. Terminate your present ministry.

- a. You should not attend meetings of the boards, church council, or of the congregation after acceptance of the call. If pastoral guidance is needed at such meetings, it will be provided by the circuit visitor or by the vacancy pastor.
- b. You are not to try to name your own successor.
- c. You should ensure that all congregational records are complete and up to date.
- d. Before leaving, you should settle all matters of a personal nature (return borrowed items, pay bills, etc). Longer-term obligations with congregation or district should be refinanced.
- e. The “farewell sermon” should be a Gospel sermon. It should be positive and upbeat.

5. Notes on beginning a new ministry:

- a. A pastor in a new ministry should be extremely careful of what he says about his predecessor.
- b. Before changes in the ministry are instituted, it is best to move slowly, discussing those changes with the congregation’s board of elders, church council, or board of directors.
- c. After you depart, you should not speak too often about your former congregation.
- d. You should avoid carrying on any correspondence with members of the congregation you have left.
- e. You are not to officiate at weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc., at your former congregation unless invited to do so by the present pastor.
- f. You should not return to visit your former congregation too soon after leaving.
- g. When members of your former congregation come to complain about their present pastor, you should not listen to them with sympathetic ears.