



East Ohio Conference  
The United Methodist Church

HEALTHY TRANSITIONS  
WORKSHOPS

# Making a Healthy Transition

## *Saying Goodbye Well*

What are the congregation's plans for expressing gratitude for the outgoing pastor for the years of ministry?

How are the emotional and spiritual components of the congregation at this time?

- Are there situations that need to be addressed? How will this be done and by whom?

Does the congregation understand why the pastor has accepted a new appointment?

- If not, what needs to be said and how?

What is the congregation's understanding of pastor not returning to do ministry (weddings, funerals, baptisms)?

- What needs to be said – how will it be said?

Have plans been made for move out day?

- Does the pastor need help packing? Cleaning?

How has the congregation begun to prepare for the incoming pastor's arrival?

- How has the stage been set for the congregation to be welcoming to the new pastor? Have prayers been said? Have cards been sent?
- What information still needs to be prepared for the incoming pastor? Are there situations, ministry plans, etc. that the new pastor still needs to be informed about? What are those things and how will they be shared?
- See the Transition Checklist sheets for things that still need to be accomplished.

A reference for pastors: "Ten Commandments for Pastors Leaving a Congregation" by Lawrence W. Farris. This is available through [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) – on sale now for \$9.36!



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## *Hospitality, Welcome, New Beginnings*

When is move-in day for the new pastor?

- Are there plans to make sure the parsonage is move-in ready? If not, what needs to be finished and who will do this?
- Are there plans for providing hospitality for the family on that day?

What are the plans for the pastor's first Sunday?

- Who will welcome the pastor during worship (and perhaps family) and how will this be done?
- Is there a welcoming reception arranged for the pastor's first or second Sunday?

Is the congregation aware of the missional reasons for the appointment of this pastor?

- How is this information shared? How will it be used on the new pastor's first Sunday?

What plans need to be made to help introduce the pastor to the culture, traditions, resources, etc. of the area?

- A driving tour of the region can help new pastors get up to speed quickly. Who in the congregation has a good history of the region, knows important places, where people live, and can give the pastor a tour?

What plans need to be made to help the congregation and new pastor begin to build relationships?

- Are there in-home social gatherings scheduled or some other way for small groups of people to be introduced to the pastor and vice versa? Who is following through with this schedule?

Does the congregation need to participate in cross-cultural/cross-racial training?

- Who will attend and how will that information be shared?

What are the ministry needs that need to be addressed by the new pastor as soon as possible?

- Who is sharing this information with the pastor?