

Re: Ending Well – The Local Church Transition Packet

Dear Local Church Leader,

Saying good-bye to your current pastor and preparing to welcome a new pastor is part and parcel of the itinerant ministry of United Methodist Church. Whether your pastor has been introduced to a new congregation or is retiring (and whether this is the first pastoral transition you have experienced or the tenth), the season of transition is one of much work, many emotions and great opportunity. The change of pastoral leadership is an important time in the life of the congregation and we want to help you handle it well. We are praying for you, your congregation, your pastor and for the pastor whom God is preparing to serve in your congregation next.

As Regional Missional Specialists for the West Ohio Conference, we have gathered resources and weaved in our experiences and learning to create this Transition Packet for you. It includes individual pages on topics such as Communicating Well, Recognizing the “Lasts,” and Welcoming Your New Pastor, as well as a Transition Checklist to assist your planning. Our desire is to assist you and your congregation in **Ending Well** by focusing on effectively concluding ministry with your current pastor, paving the way for your new pastor, and getting off to a good start with the next appointment. Your pastor is receiving a related but different Transition Packet to help guide herself/himself through the transition and we encourage you to partner in this process.

In addition to this **Ending Well** Transition Packet, in-person **Starting Well** Equipping Sessions will be offered throughout the conference. You will be invited to attend a Starting Well Equipping Session with your new pastor to further prepare you for the first year of ministry together.

We realize that each transition is unique. Some of the information included will not apply in your local church. You may have a situation that is not currently addressed in these materials. Our hope is that this packet makes the planning easier and more robust.

Please share these resources with others in leadership. Gift yourself the time to become acquainted with the packet and provide leadership in your congregation to develop a transition plan that fits your setting. We are available to support you in developing your plan and navigating your particular transition.

Prayers for the journey,

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