

Re: Ending Well – The Pastor’s Transition Packet

Dear Colleague in Ministry,

Saying good-bye to your current congregation, which is often followed by being welcomed in a new pastorate, is part and parcel of our itinerant ministry as United Methodist clergy. Whether you have been introduced to a new congregation or announced your retirement (and whether this is your first move or your 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 current congregation, and your new ministry setting.

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 Caring for Yourself and Your Family, as well as a Checklist and a Transition Plan Template to assist your planning. Our desire is to assist you in **Ending Well** by focusing on effectively concluding ministry in your current setting, paving the way for your successor, and getting off to a good start in your next appointment. Your S/PPRC Chair (or equivalent) is receiving a related but different Transition Packet to help guide the local church through the transition and come alongside you.

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 leadership from your new congregation to further prepare you for your first year of ministry together.

We realize that each transition is unique. Some of the information included will not apply in your current move. 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 gift yourself the time to become acquainted with the packet and develop an Ending Well 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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