

Step 6: Welcome and Orientation Process

A. **Helping the pastor to move.** It is the responsibility of the search committee to assist the new pastor in the process of moving, in keeping with church guidelines. The moving date and effective date of the pastorate must be worked out to the satisfaction of all. If a parsonage is provided, preparing the house for the arrival of the new pastor and his family is important. If the church provides a housing allowance, the committee could assist the pastor in securing a reputable realtor and provide financial assistance for the pastor and his family to return to the church field to locate and secure a home suitable for their needs.

Coordinate moving arrangements:

1. Moving Expenses
2. Schedule the move
3. Utilities hookups
4. Moving day activities
5. Settling-in period

B. **Pastor Installation Service** As soon as possible after the new pastor arrives on the field, a Pastor Installation Service should be planned. Invite the local Director of Missions, representatives of the state convention and local government, and fellow pastors in the community.. A Sunday afternoon is a good time for this service in order for other pastors to attend. Following the installation service, a reception honoring the pastor and his family may be held. A suggested installation service format is given on page 43.

C. **Orient the new pastor to the church.** The search committee should delegate a committee member or the chairman of the deacons to orient the new pastor to the church. Every church has its own unique way of doing business and it will be helpful for the new pastor to learn them in an organized fashion rather than haphazardly.

- Discuss these matters with the pastor before he accepts the position of business meeting moderator. Some pastors prefer that a deacon or other layman serve as moderator.
- Every church has its own traditions concerning the two church ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Explain these traditions to the pastor before he is expected to conduct these meaningful worship services.

D. **Orient the new pastor to the community.** It is a good idea for the chairman of deacons to introduce the new pastor to key community leaders, the Director of Missions and the IBSA Church Health Development Director (if applicable).

Some groups to be included in this orientation are:

1. larger church family
2. local Baptist association
3. larger Christian community
4. government/legal community
5. civic/social community
6. educational/cultural community
7. business/financial community

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION & COMMITMENT

The Service of Praise

Prelude

Call to Worship

"I will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord Jehovah. I will seek that which was lost, and bring back that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy; I will feed them in justice."

(Ezekiel 34:15-16 ASV)

Hymn

Invocation

Anthem (Choir)

The Service of Greeting

Welcome to Guests

Welcome to the Pastor and His Family

From the local Baptist Churches
and Ministerial Association

From the local community

From the local Baptist Association

Director of Missions

From the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Church Health Development Director

The Service of Commitment

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Solo

The Pastor and Church in Covenant.

Introduction of Pastor to the Church and Visitors

Pledges of Pastor and People

Leader: Having been called to be pastor of this church, do you take this people to be your people, this field of labor to be your field, without reservation of mind or heart?

Pastor: I do

Leader: Do you promise to give yourself faithfully to the ministry to the Word and to prayer, to be a good shepherd of this flock of God, to minister to the needs of all alike, to be the friend of all who will permit you, to seek the salvation of souls and the nurture of the saved, to put the service of Christ and His Kingdom above all else, if wronged to forgive as you expect to be forgiven, to seek always to keep yourself mentally alert and physically fit, as much as in you lies to be at peace with all men, and to lead this church in the ways of Christ as the Holy Spirit may give you wisdom and strength?

Pastor: I do

Leader: (To congregation) Do you promise to hear attentively the preaching of the Word, to participate reverently in the services of worship, to share with this pastor in the responsibilities of teaching and learning, to assume your proportionate part of the church's benevolent ministries, to receive him into your hearts and homes, to counsel with him concerning the welfare of the church and the winning of souls, to encourage him in his stand for right, to forgive him when he makes mistakes, and to follow his leadership as he follows Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Leader: Let us together reaffirm our high resolution and devotion to the preaching of the good tidings of salvation.

People: We consecrate our gifts.

Leader: To the teaching of Jesus' way of life.

People: We consecrate our time.

Leader: To the leading of children and youth to the knowledge of the love of Christ.

People: We consecrate our talents.

Leader: To the healing of broken bodies and the soothing of troubled minds.

People: We consecrate our service.

Leader: To the caring for the helpless and the relief of all those who look to us for help.

People: We consecrate our strength.

Leader: To the evangelization of the community and the worldwide extension of the Kingdom of God.

People: We consecrate our wealth, our efforts and our lives.

Prayer of Consecration

Hymn of Dedication ("A Charge to Keep I Have")

Response of the Pastor

Hymn ("O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee")

Benediction

Postlude