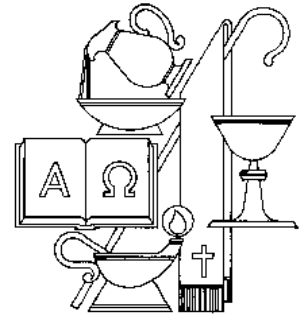


## WHEN YOU RECEIVE A CALL

---

1. Acknowledge immediately your receipt of the call by sending a letter of acknowledgment to the calling congregation. Send copies of the letter to the following:
  - a) Your District President. (However, please notify your District President as soon as you have received the call and discuss when you want the news of your call to be made public.)
  - b) The President of the District in which the calling congregation is located. (The same rule applies here as above.)
  - c) Your District Mission Executive, if your congregation is receiving District mission subsidy.
  - d) Your Circuit Counselor.
  - e) The Circuit Counselor of the Circuit in which the calling congregation is located.
  - f) The vacancy pastor serving the calling congregation.
2. Notify the members of your congregation that you have received the call. In addition, read or publish the letter which has been sent by the calling congregation to your congregation.
3. Discuss the call with the members of your congregation. This can be done informally, with individuals members and/or formally with Council, Elders or at a larger gathering. Try and get beyond the usual sentiments which people will express and encourage substantive input on the decision you have before you.
- 4) Deliberate on the call. In this regard, pray fervently, asking God to help you determine:
  - a) Am I still needed where I am?
  - b) Would it be beneficial for my present congregation if I stay?
  - c) Would it be beneficial for my present congregation if I leave?
  - d) Is the Lord challenging me to use my gifts in a different part of the kingdom at this time?
  - e) Is the Lord challenging me to develop another gift which I have in a different part of the kingdom?
- 5) Notify the calling congregation, in writing, of your decision regarding the call. Send copies of the letter to the following:
  - a) Your District President.
  - b) The President of the District in which the calling congregation is located.



- c) Your District Mission Executive, if your congregation is receiving District mission subsidy.
- d) Your Circuit Counselor.
- e) The Circuit Counselor of the Circuit in which the calling congregation is located.
- f) The vacancy pastor serving the calling congregation.

6) Notify the members of your congregation of your decision regarding the call.

*AS YOU CONSIDER THE CALL...*

1. Pray fervently asking the Lord to show you His will regarding the call.
2. Discuss the matter with your family.
3. Seek the advice of fellow pastors, your Circuit Counselor and District President if you feel this would be helpful in reaching a decision regarding the call.
4. Ask for the advice, comments, and prayers of your members.
5. Don't accept or reject the call on the basis of any contingencies (... if I can sell my house ... if the congregation will give me the down payment to buy a house, etc.)
6. Don't let home ownership (or the purchasing of a home) determine your decision regarding a call.
7. On-site visits - Congregations are encouraged to extend such an invitation to the pastor after he has been extended a call. However, ask yourself if it is really necessary? If not, be a good steward of the congregation's resources and decline the offer to visit.
8. Reach a decision without delay (normally within 2-4 weeks of receiving the call documents). If you are unable to reach a clear decision regarding the call within four weeks, decline it.

*WHEN YOU DECLINE A CALL...*

1. Return the call documents and any supporting materials to the calling congregation along with a brief letter stating that you have decided to remain in your present position.
2. Inform your own congregation as soon as possible (next Sunday service).

*WHEN YOU ACCEPT A CALL...*

1. Inform the calling congregation in writing of your decision. Communicate with the calling congregation or agency, circuit counselor and District President regarding an appropriate commissioning/installation date.
2. Arrange for appropriate closure of your present service.