



Transition between Pastors

1. The Time of Transition Between Pastors is often seen as:
 - a. “Hold things together, keep things going” The Committed
 - b. “Wait and See” - Nominal Church Members
 - c. “I will just stay home since the preacher left us” - Sunday morning attenders
 - d. “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush” – Prospective Church Members
2. The time should be seen as a productive time of growth in personal and congregational strength and renewal. It should be a time of renewal and celebration, worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, and personal ministry.
3. The time between pastors is a time of **TRANSITION**.
 - a. There is a difference between CHANGE and TRANSITION.
 - i. Change – Is situational – Situation is new.
 - ii. **Transition – Psychological process folks go through as they come to terms with the change.**
4. The period between pastors is a time to:
 - a. Define the churches current reality
 - b. Redefine and understand the mission of God’s Church
 - c. Examine the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to the congregation
 - d. A time to mend broken fences
 - e. A time to focus on mission and vision
 - f. A time to experience revival and revitalization.
 - g. A time to Pray, Really Pray.



The transition between pastors

Churches transitioning from the leadership of one pastor to another often need help. The average time a church spends without a pastor is between 6 and 18 months. So much can happen during that time that could affect the church either positively or negatively. Whenever a church is without a senior pastor, several options exist for filling the leadership role that has been vacated by the former pastor.

1. A church can choose to let **staff members** fill the pulpit. However, the preaching ability of the staff may not always be what the church body expects. This seldom provides the leadership needed by the church in Transition.
2. A church can choose to schedule **multiple preachers** to fill the pulpit. The positive side is the opportunity to hear a number of different preachers. On the downside, the congregation isn't able to develop a relationship with the speaker on an ongoing basis.
3. Many churches choose to secure an **interim pastor**. Often it is a local retired pastor. The interim is able to fill the pulpit and assist the search committee in their process of searching for a new pastor. The skill set, experience, and expertise of the interim pastor will determine if he can lead the church through a helpful and healthy process to prepare for the next pastor.

A better option?

4. A better option for most churches is a transitional pastor. A **transitional pastor** has been trained to help the church stay focused on its mission and prepare them for more effective ministry under the leadership of a new pastor. They will guide the church through the spiritual, psychological, and situational stages of transition.