

## **Topics for Reflection and Discussion Outgoing Pastor & Church Leadership**

- Take the new pastor around to small groups, so that he can get to know everyone, right from the beginning. And learn about your new pastor, her experiences, and what gives her joy and sadness. *Be a facilitator of relationships.*
- Learn about your new pastor, her experiences, and what gives her joy and sadness. Encourage others to see her as another child of God whose life experiences and pastoral training will benefit you.
- Before the new pastor arrives, hold small or medium-sized group discussions, in which you encourage people to speak frankly about their fears and concerns.
- There are many elements of church life that seem normal and natural to you, but that might be unique to your congregation. Help the new pastor learn those norms and expectations.
- The new pastor may understand the world differently than the membership and therefore have a different approach to the gospel. Be open to the joy of new insights.
- Instruct members to send all feedback directly to the pastor and then, if still dissatisfied, to the SPRC, but never to the district superintendent or bishop.
- Before the new pastor arrives, hold a congregational meeting to discern a few things in your worship life that are very important to the congregation, and explain these to the pastor.
- Soon after the pastor arrives, talk to her about how authorities and responsibilities will be shared between the pastor and lay leadership.