

Saying Hello

1. Provide a record of the past with a good church history for the new pastor.
2. Host smaller fellowship events for the pastor and his family to allow time to get acquainted.
3. Send cards and letters to convey words of welcome.
4. Develop an updated photo directory of church families to help the new pastor more quickly learn names and family relationships.
5. Organize a “Welcome to our Church” reception.
6. Offer a sabbatical program. Extended leave every 5-7 years may encourage the pastor to stay for a long term.
7. Review housing arrangements. A parsonage may help the pastor move to the church with ease but it may not enhance long term residence. Establish a projected schedule for the pastor to have a housing allowance and the opportunity to purchase his own home after one or two years.
8. Help on moving day. Several helpers on moving day can greatly assist the pastor and his family as they set up in their new home.
9. Make a phone call. Check up on the pastor and his family, but keep it short and friendly.
10. Be sensitive at holiday times. The pastor and his family may be far away from extended family and could genuinely appreciate an invitation to share some holiday traditions in their new home.