

## STEP 2 | SAY GOODBYE TO THE PASTOR

It all began with excitement and high hopes. Convinced that God was calling the pastor to your church for the sake of his glory, your church said, “We want you to be our pastor.” Now, after many ups and downs, twists and turns, that call is coming to an inevitable close.

It may be very disappointing that the pastor is leaving. It may also be very disappointing that the pastor stayed too long through so many difficult seasons! Either way, there are good ways to say goodbye.

Don’t overlook others beyond the pastor who must say goodbye. This may be an emotional time for family members and others who may leave the congregation when the pastor leaves. Saying goodbye well frees everyone to move towards God’s next steps in healthy ways.

## STEP 3 | ARRANGE FOR TEMPORARY SERVICE

Sunday just has a way of coming every seven days. How will the church address all the immediate needs, such as pulpit supply and pastoral care? The hope is that the initial phase of transition won’t last too long and soon a stable plan for transition will be in place. Your MPT may be able to help you fill the need for preaching on a temporary basis.