
A Lump of Kohl

November 1, 2015



Being without a permanent pastor can be a high anxiety time within a church. Many churches lose focus, momentum, and members in the time between pastors. The intentional interim process is designed to help churches through pastoral transitions. Working with a Transition Team, an Intentional Interim Pastor leads a church through a prescribed process by which a church is better prepared to receive a new pastor and to search for the kind of pastor that they really need. Since no two churches are exactly alike, no two processes are exactly alike. Leading a church through this process is more of an art than a science, an art that requires much wisdom from the Lord. Below you will see a standard timetable. I will do my best to accelerate the process but I must be careful that haste does not undermine the process. Much of the timing depends on the availability and ability of the Transition Team and congregation to work the process.

October & November 2015

- 7:14 Prayer Campaign
- Interview Groups
- Pastor makes a tentative assessment of the church

December 2015 & January 2016

- The congregation nominates and selects a Transition Team.
- Pastor trains and launches the Team.
- The Pastor prayerfully considers a few ways he can use his spiritual gifts and experience to keep the church moving forward during the transition

January and February 2016

The Transition Team and congregation work on Heritage Self-Study: What are the high and low points in our history that God has brought us through that have shaped us into the church we are today?

February to July 2016

The pastor and congregation work on the following self-studies in any order the Transition Team decides is best:

- Connections Self-Study - What, if anything, should we do to strengthen our relationship with our denomination and ministry partners?
- Mission Self-Study - What is God calling us to be and do at this time in our history? Where does God want us to go and grow as a church over the next decade?
- Leadership Self-Study - How effective are we at raising up the workers and leaders

we need to carry out our mission as a church? What hinders us from being effective? What can we do to become more effective?

August 2016

- The Pastor and congregation work with the Transition Team work on the Future Study. This involves writing up a realistic profile of the church and a description of the kind of pastor the church needs to lead them into the future they have decided God wants them to pursue.
- The church nominates, selects, and launches a Pastoral Search Committee
- The intentional interim pastor trains the committee

September 2016 onward

- The Pastoral Search Committee searches for the man of God's choosing
- The church says farewell to the intentional interim pastor
- The church installs a new pastor

If you have any questions or concerns about the process, do not hesitate to speak with me.

MY CONTACT INFO: My mobile phone is 774-312-4966. My email for church business is bbc.gakohl@gmail.com.

PRAYER CAMPAIGN: We cannot overestimate the importance of prayer in the intentional interim process. While models, pastors, consultants, curriculums, etc. all have their place, ultimately, we want to look to the Lord. It is as the Psalmist said, *I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from there comes my help. My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth* (Psalm 121:1-2). There is a four pronged approach to our prayer campaign over the month of November:

1. I will preach a short series of sermons designed to inspire us to pray.
2. Starting on Monday, November 2, we are going to encourage every willing person in the church to pause at 7:14 AM to pray that God will renew them and our church. The time was picked to remind us of 2 Chronicles 7:14. I really don't care if we pray precisely at 7:14 as long as we are praying.
3. Over the course of the campaign, we will hold weekly special prayer meetings on various days and at various times. In these special prayer meetings we will be praying for God to work in and through BBC.
4. We will read a book, *A Journey to Victorious Praying* by Bill Thrasher. It has 30 small, informative, and inspirational chapters in it. Starting on November 1 we will read chapter 1 and read a chapter each day that corresponds with the day of the month.

BUYING THE BOOK ON PRAYER: TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PICK UP A BOOK! Those who want a copy can give me the cash or write a check payable to payable to "George A. Kohl." They cost \$11.00. You can download a Kindle version from Amazon for \$6.99. If the cost of the book is a hardship for you, do not let that hinder you from picking up a copy.

SPECIAL PRAYER MEETINGS: For starts, I will conduct a special, weekly prayers meeting. I hope that all of you will participate in one or more of these meetings. The meetings will last 30 to 60 minutes.

- Thursday, November 5, 10:00 AM
- Monday, November 9, 1:00 PM
- Thursday, November 19, 6:30 PM

MY PASTORAL POLICIES: Be sure to pick up my pastoral policies. They explain what I deem to be my priorities as an intentional interim pastor, how I manage my schedule, the role my wife plays in the process, and how you can give both positive and negative feedback to me. They also explain how I operate when it comes to weddings, child dedications, baptisms, counseling, visitation, funerals, and so forth.

INTERVIEW GROUPS: I am conducting interview groups to get different people's perspectives on the church. I would like for every willing person to participate in one of these groups. Look at the list below and find a group that fits with your schedule. I will bring the interviews to a close on November 18. Interviews will last between 30 to 60 minutes. Locations will be announced. Here are some times to choose from:

- Sunday, November 1, after service and a cup of coffee
- Tuesday, November 3, 10:00 AM
- Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 PM
- Sunday, November 8, after service and a cup of coffee
- Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 PM
- Sunday, November 15, after service and a cup of coffee

JUST A HEADS UP: Before signing on with Bethany, I was scheduled to be away for the weekend that includes Sunday, November 22.

